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## U.S. gives Kuwait two tankers

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The United States navy has handed over to Kuwait two oil tankers intercepted in the Gulf in November for breaking the U.N. embargo on Iraq, an American officer said Friday. The two ships — the Tasma Bay and the C.E. Stephanos — were seized on Nov. 30 in international waters and ven to Kuwait on Thursday, the commander of the U.S. Navv in given to Kriwart on Tausuay, the commander of the U.S. Navy in Bahrain told AFP. The navy gave no details of the size of the tankers, the circumstances of their interception nor the country in which they were registered. On Nov. 6 Kuwair decided to sell the cargo of the Mahroussa, a Honduran-registered oil tanker intered on Oct. 21. The money from the sale went into the funds of the United Nations compensation committee, set up in 1991 to pay compensation to victims of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The fund includes Iraqi assets frozen in various countries as a result of the U.N. embargo imposed on Bahgdad after the invasion. The captain of the Mahroussa, Izzat Abdul Hadi Khalifa, said his tanker had unloaded 3,162 tonnes of fuel in Al Zubair port in southeastern Iraq between Oct. 16 and 19.

# rean Ti

An independant Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تابعز بومية سَيِغْسَية تصِير بالأنجِلْيَزية عن المؤسسة الصَّحَفَيّة الأردنية ،الراي،

'Volume 19 Number 5829

AMMAN SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1995, SHAABAN 27, 1415

NICOSIA (AFP) — Washington has warned rival Kurdish groups, in northern Iraq to stop their fighting which threatens U.S.-led efforts to protect the region from Iraqi forces, an Arabic-language daily said Friday. Al Hayat said a U.S. State Department official visiting northern Iraq, David Litt, handed the leaders of the rival groups, Jalal Talabani and Masoud Barzani, a "sharply-worded" message from U.S. President Bill Clinton, Mr. Clinton "warned them against continuing the fighting which threatens the U.S. Presence in Kurdistan ... and told them they had to take responsibility for the consequences," the London-based newspaper said. Mr. Litt headed a joint Turkish-U.S. delegation to northern Iraq to meet Mr. Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Mr. Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on Wednesday. The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation (IBC), which represents the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella opposition movement including the KDP and PUK, said the delegation urged Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani to "accept INC mediation of their dispute in order to restore lasting peace to the liberated region of northern Iraq.

U.S. warns Kurds to stop fighting

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

#### Jardaneh stresses liberalisation push

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh said Friday Jordan seeks to liberalise its economy through eliminating all forms of bureaucracy and complica-tions facing investors. At a ceremony organised by the Customs Department at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman to mark International Customs Day, Mr. Jardaneh said the department should change its working mechanisms and offer more training for its teams not only on implementing laws, but also to give a good image of Jor-

#### Ramadan office hours announced

AMMAN (Petra) - Ministries and government departments will be working from 9.30 a.m. till 2 p.m. during the Holy Month of Ramadan. expected to start Wednesday according to the lunar calendar. A communique issued by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker urged government personnel to adhere to the norms of the Holy

#### France urges end to settlements

PARIS (R) — France called on Israel on Friday to stop building settlements in the occupied West Bank, saying they hampered the peace process with Palestinians. We believe that further setilements are incompatible with advances in the peace process." a foreign ministry spokeswoman told a regular press briefing. "Besides, settlements are contrary to the Geneva convention," she

#### Oman urges end to Iraq sanctions

MUSCAT (AFP) - Oman called on the international community Friday to end the embargo imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "What is happening to the Iraqi people is a disgrace for Arabs. Iraq must be helped to overcome its mistakes and come out of its isolation," said Minister of Palace Affairs Ali Ben Majid Al Muammari, in an interview with the daily Oman. Mr. Muammari also said Oman was "not rushing to establish ties with Israel." He said the sultanate was "only supporting Arab efforts to

#### establish peace." Ghali meets Peres, Musa in Zurich

GENEVA (R) - United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali discussed the Middle East peace process on Friday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa, a U.N. statement said. The U.N. chief held 45-minute talks with the two ministers at Zurich airport before returning to New York, it added. "They had a discussion on the peace process in the Middle East," said the brief statement, which

#### gave no details. Israel expels 700 Palestinian workers

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Police have thrown out 700 Palestinians caught working in Israel since the West Bank and Gaza were sealed off Sunday night after a suicide bombing killed 20 people, the authorities said Friday. Police said the illegals were fined \$150 and taken back to the occupied West Bank or autonomous Gaza Strip. Police also fined 120 Israeli employers several hundrred dollars each. Before the bombing claimed by Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, some 50,000 Palestinian labourers had permits for Israel while between 10,000 and 20,000 nicken. 3 miles more worked illegally.

# Arafat describes agreements with Jordan as cementing ties

PLO leader leaves after signing accords; Israel says move positive despite reference to Palestinian state

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat flew out early Friday after a two-day visit, describing the agree-ments Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed on Thursday as representing a major step in enhancing bilateral ties.

In pre-departure comments in Amman and again after arrival in Gaza following a brief stopover in Cairo, Mr. Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said Jordanian-Palestinian relations were positively advanced by the agreements.

Israel said Friday it supported the agreements despite a clause that called for an independent Palestinian state. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Israel saw the agreements as positive since they indicated a rapprochement between Jordan and the PLO.

"As an Israeli, I would not sign the (agreement) because mentions a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Special to the Jordan Times

BY AGREEING on a joint

strategy based on commit-

ment to a comprehensive

peace settlement in the

Middle East, Jordan and

the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) have

achieved a breakthrough in

bilateral and inter-Arab re-

But observers and

analysts say that there are

still many questions that

need to be addressed parti-

cularly that such a joint

strategy and co-operation

agreement should have

been reached before either

side signed any agreement

The political agreement

and the seven protocols of cooperation in different

fields were signed between

Jordan and the PNA on

The PNA is restrained by

with Israel.

Thursday.

Jordan sees accords as major step, states stand on passports

DEPUTY PRIME Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh has described the seven accords Jordan signed with the Palestinians as a major step on the road to achieve more cooperation and coordination between the two sides.

In an interview with Jordan Television Friday night on the issue of nationality and passport he said that the temporary passport given to the Palestinians did not imply nationality. He explained that the temporary passport was only a travel document to help the Palestinians continue normal living without hindrances (see page 12).

The minister said that Jordan will continue this service as long as it is needed by the Palestinians and that the issuance of a Palestinian passport would not mean immediate withdrawal of the temporary passports. "There should be a transition period," he said.

As for Jordanians of Palestinian origin, the minister said, they are Jordanians with full rights and obligations and they have the right to choose any nationality they see fit. But dual nationality will not be acceptable, he said.

Amman agreements belated, but

still could help push for Arab strategy

By Lamis K. Andoni the limitations imposed by between the commitments will emerge as the main

Mr. Beilin told Israel Radio. But, apart from that, I think this agreement, also from our perspective, is not problematic, and in principle is even positive," he said.

However, Mr. Beilin also sought to advance an Israeli theme by suggesting that the agreement "could, in the Majesty King Hussein and

the self-rule accord be-

tween the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation and

taken into account its own

peace treaty with Israel.

foregone conclusion.

according to analysts and

politicians from boths

sides, that Jordan and the

Palestinians could have had

**ANALYSIS** 

better deals with Israel if a

joint strategy and plan of

action were reached at the

outset of the negotiating

process with Israel three

nians are bound by the self-

rule agreements, and Jor-

dan has its own peace trea-

ty to honour, the challenge

will be how to reconcile

But now that the Palesti-

years ago.

Jordan will have also

Consequently, it is a

long term, lead to a Jordanian-Palestinian confedera-

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Mr. Arafat signed a general agreement on political cooperation in a ceremony held at the Royal Palace and attended by His

entailed in the agreements

with Israel and the main

objective of the protocol of

cooperation - i.e. to en-

sure the comprehensive-

ness of a solution to the

Politicians from both

sides hope that the joint

strategy could prevent any

Israeli attempts to trag-

ment the peace process into

separate deals that end up

with the integration of

Israel into the region with-

out the latter withdrawing

from all Arab territories it

The joint strategy, as

some officials and analysts

see it, could be part of the

recent Arab moves to

counter the emergence of

Israel as the dominant pow-

In other words, Arab

officials have been saying

privately, and some times

even publicly, that Israel

er broker in the region.

occupied in 1967.

Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prince Hassan.

Seven other agreements related to specific sectors were signed by the concerned ministers from the two sides. These involved economic cooperation, trade, transport. communications. education, information and banking and monetary

There was no direct reference in the accords to Jordan's role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem. At a hastily called press conference at the Guest Palace Thursday afternoon, where Mr. Arafat failed to show up although he was expected to be there, the PLO chairman's spokesman, Nabil Aburodeina, said the subjects were not discussed in detail during the talks Mr. Arafat held with King Hussein.

'The two leaders will resume discussions on the subject (of Jerusalem) at a later

stage." the spokesman said. Analysts said the very fact that Mr. Arafat signed the general agreement, whose preamble commits both sides to respect each other's

(Continued on page 7)

beneficiary from the peace

process as it remains the

only country allowed to

possess nuclear power and

definitely has the economic

edge, especially if it suc-

ceeds in entering separate

treaties with each Arab

As the protocols signed

between Jordan and the

PNA indicate, the two

sides hope that through

some form of economic and

cultural integration each

will be better prepared and

equipped to face a better

organised Israeli economy.

nians, some PNA officials

now admit, the self-rule

agreements could easily

lead to a very subservient

relationship, to the advan-

tage of Israel if the Palesti-

nians did not seek to inte-

grate with the Arab eco-

(Continued on page 7)

In the case of the Palesti

country.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bids farewell to Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako on Friday (Petra photo)

# Prince Naruhito, princess end visit to return home

Visit seen to reflect excellent ties

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako headed home Friday after cutting short a visit to Jordan citing an urgent need to be in Japan, which is recovering from a deadly earthquake on Jan. 17 and facing the threat of more aftershocks.

As a result of the changed schedule. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor hosted a lunch in honour of the Japanese couple on Friday instead of a dinner planned for Saturday night. Prince Naruhito and Prin-

cess Masako were seen off from Amman airport by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and several members of the Royal family and senior officials. including Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the speakers of Parliament as well as Japanese Ambassador

Yuji Ikeda and diplomats. The Japanese prince and princess took off at 4.45 p.m. and were headed for Singapore, where they were to make a short stop before

continuing their way home. The Japanese prince and princess were scheduled earlier to spend three days in Jordan on the third leg of a Middle East trip that was drawn up before the earthquake and leave on Sunday.

The Japanese side cited the urgent need for the prince and princess to be in Japan in view of the additional loss of life and emergency situation. there as the reason for cutting short their stay to 24 hours in Jordan," said an official source.

The source noted that Kobe in central Japan was rocked by several aftershocks after the Jan. 17 tremblor. particularly a strong one that hit Thursday morning. Prince Naruhito and Prin-

cess Masako arrived here Thursday evening from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the second leg of their Mideast trip that begain in Kuwait on Jan. 20. They were the guests of honour at a dinner hosted by

Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Thursday In speeches at the dinner,

both crown princes expressed concern over the situation in Japan and the victims of the earthquake. "I am deeply distressed

with the great number of deceased and concerned over the large-scale suffering caused by the disastrous earthouake... in the Hanshin area," said Crown Prince

Crown Prince Naruhito thanked Jordan for its expressions of concern and sympathy for the Japanese people and also expressed profound gratitude for the most timely provision of a large number of sleeping bags and tents for those affected by the earthquake. Underlining the strong re-

lations between the two countries, the Japanese prince paid tribute to Jordan's efforts for peace in the Middle East and said he had "the most profound admiration for the leadership" exerted by King Hussein and Prince Hassan.

Noting that visits paid by the King and the Crown Prince to Japan have "fostered warm friendship between our peoples." Prince Naruhito said Japan was "delighted to see Jordan week in Japan" in May when Crown Prince Hassan is also expected to visit Tokyo and Royal Jordanian (RJ) would launch direct flights between Jordan and Japan.

"It is my earnest hope that such memorable events will broaden the range of exchange, thus enhancing our two countries' bilateral relations," he said.

In his address. Crown

(Continued on page 7)

inside the bathroom," sa

biology major.

Maysa Alami, a 19-year-old

one by one. Some scuffled

with the soldiers. The direc-

tor, of student affairs, Ziyad

were lightly hurt and hospi-

college library and two cam-

pus mosques, taking books,

posters and magazines, stu-

dents said. Reporters saw

some 30 windows shattered.

several broken door locks

and mattresses strewn on the

academic institution is unjus-

tified and does not help the

peace process," said Pales-tine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) Chairman Yasser

Arafat's spokesman Nabil

Dean of Science and Tech-

nology Mustafa Hamis said

computers were also broken

and estimated the damage at

"The moral damage is

100,000 shekels (\$33,000).

Abu Iredeineh.

"This attack on an

Troops also searched the

Abu Ilal, said four women

Students were questioned

# Saleh says S. Arabia massed border troops

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Friday Saudi Arabia had massed troops on the border with Yemen but pulled them back after Sanaa intervened with the Saudi au-

"The Saudis massed large numbers of troops on the Yemeni border Wednesday but after contacts between our delegation and their brothers in Saudi Arabia their troops pulled back 10 to 15 kilometres towards the Boka region," Mr. Saleh told the BBC's Arabic service. He said the Saudis have

moved two mechanised brigades and one armoured brigade towards the border. Diplomats in the Gulf and political sources in Sanaa said earlier Saudi Arabia had

massed troops, tanks and missile batteries along the southwestern part of its border with Yemen. The troop movements followed renewed tension triggered by a Jan. 10 clash in which 40 Yemenis and 14

Saudis died, Western diplomats said. The Saudi forces could be seen with the naked eye"

near Al Boka, a northern Yemeni town with an airport, one official said. Diplomats said there had

been fresh Saudi troop movements on Tuesday and Wednesday involving more than 60 tanks near Al Boka, close to the disputed border area.

The diplomats also said at least 20 Saudi Apache attack helicopters were moved to a southern airbase at Khamis Mushyt, while three naval boats arrived off Jizan on the On Thursday, Yemeni offi-

cials discussing the dispute in Riyadh and Saudi Arabian official sources denied reports of renewed massing of troops on the border, the scene of several clashes in recent weeks.

Yemeni political sources said Riyadh had also deployed F-15 and F-16 warplanes and attack helicopters in the region, and a Yemeni army officer told AFP the Saudis were "three kilometres from our first lines of defence."

A senior official from the (Continued on page 7)

# Rabin left trailing Netanyahu in polls

nomy.

Israel's right-wing opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu left Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin trailing an unprecedented 22 points behind in an opinion poll published Fri-

The Moutgi Institute survey found the Likud leader would win 50 per cent of the votes in a general election today while Mr. Rabin would muster only 28 per cent. Ten per cent would vote

for neither while 12 per cent voiced no opinion in the poll for the Maariv newspaper. The reversal for Mr. Rabin followed Sunday's double suicide bombing in which 19 Israelis died.

Mr. Netanyahu had picked up only 25 per cent support at the start of January compared with 23 per cent for Mr. Rabin in a Moutgi poll. General elections are not scheduled until November

will be elected directly for the first time. Another poll published Friday showed that 51 per cent of Israelis wanted to stop peace negotiations with the

1996 when the prime minister

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation, (PLO), although 46 per cent wanted to continue. Three per cent gave no answer to the polisters for the Yediot Aharonot newspaper.

In a third survey, 64 per cent thought it was possible to separate Israelis from Palestinians on the West Bank, which Mr. Rabin has set as a long-term goal in a bid to halt the killings. Some 33 per cent did not

think it was possible and three per cent gave no opin-Pollsters questioned 500

Israelis by telephone for each of the surveys which had error margins of four per-In the survey published in

Yediot Ahronot, 61 per cent of the surveyed said Mr. Rabin's televised speech on Monday, urging them to have faith in Israel's ultimate victory over its enemies, did not contribute to their sense of security and 19 per cent even said it made them feel

Only 10 per cent said they felt encouraged by Mr. Rabin's assurances.

# Israeli army storms Abu Dis Islamic college "They told us to go out, one by one," one said. "Girls

- alone, (with) Jews around

At least 30 students were

arrested, college officials

said. The army said those

arrested belonged to Islamic

Bank (Agencies) -- Israeli troops stormed through an Islamic college on Friday, arresting students and ran-sacking dormitories in a crackdown against suspected militants following a suicide bombing earlier in the week. Separate male and female

quarters at the college of science and technology at Abu Dis, in the occupied West Bank, were a mess of broken windows, scattered clothes and X's spray-painted by the army on room doors to mark those already searched.

In the Gaza Strip on Friday, three Israeli soldiers were wounded in a shooting near Netzarim Jewish settlement, site of a suicide bombing in November that killed three soldiers. At Abu Dis, several stu-

dents showed reporters cuts and scratches they said were caused by soldiers. They also displayed plastic handcuffs they said were used by the

"We were sleeping at 2 a.m. and suddenly comes this glass and (they) break doors," one student said. "All of the students (came) out with hands like this," the student said, clasping them

behind his head. Women students, wearing traditional white headscarves, said they bolted for the women's bathroom when the soldiers entered their

militant groups. The pre-dawn raid was part of Israel's widening crack-

down on hardliners after a suicide bombing Sunday that killed 20 Israelis, most of them teenage soldiers. The college of science and technology at Abu Dis is

known as a stronghold for Islamic fundamentalism and the Israeli army said those arrested were members of the Hamas movement and the Islamic Jihad group that claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack. Muhammed Nusseibeh,

director of the board of trustees at East Jerusalem's Al Quds University that runs the college, denied the institution was a cover for militant

"People here have no time for activities outside their studies," Mr. Nusseibeh said, calling the raid unjustified. Students said soldiers scaled ladders and broke win-

a.m. and at least one stun grenade was thrown, they "I was wearing my pajamas when I heard a bomb and soldiers breaking into my room. They grabbed me by

more severe," he said. "They humiliated our female stu-The army said soldiers disdows into the dormitory at 1 covered "inciteful" material

and offered to repair any damage. A military source said any unpleasantness was the result of "a belligerent population resisting arrests.

(Continued on page 7)

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

'Egypt's army strong enough' — defence chief

CAIRO (AFP) - The Egyptian army is strong enough to

repel any attack by a would-be aggressor, Defence Minister

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Masako High-

in the Japanese gov-finent and the finent Red Cross ipanese The equipment jaid. The equipment prented to the hospital. prented to the hospital. prented shout \$210.000.

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(Petra) - British

gover of State for Foreign is Douglas Hogg told a sign lordanian parliament delegation that his countries the discountries of the discountries of

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as concern over Israel's

der weapons and said

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sale to sign the nuclear

98-Proliferation Treaty

It also voiced his coun-

icall on Israel to halt its

and settlement program-

Arab lands and to

mine for Palestinian elec-ms in implementation of

requirements of the peace

Israeli-A

efforts to

invial to the Jordan Times Ra

By Cathy King

MMAN — The Jorda-

24 Committee for the

import of the People of

Independent Caucas-

121 Republic of

thechenya (JCSCP) has

bunched a new appeal

menty requesting medical

applies, medicine and

nedical equipment for the

The request for huma-

once the suffering of a

small Muslim people ex-

posed to unjust aggres-

1001," said a statement

aged by JCSCP Chairman

Meanwhile a delegation

of Israeli-Arabs visited the ICSCP centre in Sweileh

Imraday to learn more ab-

out the situation in

Chechenya, Mr. Bino told

The delegation, headed

First art  $\epsilon$ 

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MMAN — Aqaba's first art fore

hibition, with 20 paintings

Syrian artist Hala

Her Royal Highness Prin-

as Rajwa Bint Ali. The

ganiser of the exhibition.

Select owner Khaldoun David from Fuhais, told the

lordan Times that the exhibi-

on will run for a month, and

all it will be followed by

Sore exhibitions, each last-

Mr. Dawud said he "re-

des that there is no cultural

ile Jordan Times.

nan aid aims to "re-

people of Chechenya.

princess Sarvath

By a Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — An Italian trade delegation headed for Iraq on Friday for talks with Iraqi officials and businessmen on prospects of trade with Iraq in the second such exploratory visit in five months.

The delegation of nearly 40 Italian businessmen is headed by Sergio Marini, president of the Rome-based Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce, who also attended a roundtable here last week on Jordanian-Italian trade and prospects for joint ventures.

The Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce Organised similar visit to Iraq in

The delegation's visit comes amid indications that the Italian government might be willing to unfreeze part of Iraqi assets frozen in Italian banks in line with a United Nations Security Council resolution that imposed international sanctions against Iraq following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of

A subsequent Security Council resolution freed individual governments to decide for themselves to lift the freeze on Iraqi assets, but only a handful of countries have actually unfrozen the It was not known whether

the delegation was basing its discussions in Iraq on the expected release of assets. Diego Brasioli, charge d'affaires of the Italian embassy here, said his gov-ernment was committed to thonouring the international sanctions against Iraq. He said he had no information on any expected release of

Iraqi assets held in Italy.

"The Italian embassy in

Amman is not handling Italian-Iraqi relations, and hence we are not fully in the picture," Mr. Brasioli told the Jordan Times. "But my belief is that the team would not be signing any specific agreements beyond the scope of the exemptions allowed by the United Nations Sanctions

Food and medicine are exempt from the sanctions, but the Iraqi government says it does not have the funds to pay for them since its oil exports have been suspended as a result of the trade embar-

Dozens of Italian companies are already doing business with Iraq in food and medicine and related items under special approvals secured from the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

There has an increased flow of international business delegations to Iraq in the second half of 1994 as signs emerged of an intense Iraqi effort on the international level to secure an easing/ lifting of the crippling sanc-

The Italian team that left for Iraq on Friday includes representatives of several engineering and construction companies. This indicated that part of the team's miswas also to renew contacts in Iraq in ancitipation of an easing/lifting of the sanctions against Iraq rather than

making any specific deals. The Italian team visited Jericho and Jerusalem overnight Thursday and met with officials of the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

Mr. Brasioli said the delegation appeared to be "more interested in doing business with Jordan and

## U.S. urges cooperation in Mideast on environment Special to the Jordan Times lateral environmental work-

AMMAN - A one-hour Worldnet dialogue on "The Protection of Environment in the Middle East," linking participants from the U.S., Jordan, Egypt. Bahrain and Qatar via television satellite, was held as the United States Information Service Wednes-

Participants from the Middle East addressed questions relating to the Bahrain Environmental Code of Conduct for the Middle East, a document establishing regional environmental standards, principles and guidelines, which was endorsed by the Middle East multilateral working group on the en-vironment at its meeting in Bahrain in October 1994, to the head of the U.S. delegation to the multilateral environmental working group. Donald Bandler, in Washington.

The Jordanian audience voiced concern about the threat to environmental security and stability in the region posed by Israel's refusal to sign and Egypt's refusal so far to renew its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as well as reports of Iran's growing nuclear activity.

Mr. Bandler declared this concern to be somewhat beyond the discussion on the environment." pointed out that hazardous waste, one of the results of nuclear activity, had been an item on the agenda of the Bahrain meeting. A discussion on the laws and regulations of participating nations would be an issue at forthcoming meetings of the multiing group, Mr. Bandler

In the context of the potential threat of a war over water, several questions addressed the problem of up-stream pollution of Jordan's rivers by its neighbours. Mr. Bandler suggested the

Middle East copy the example of Europe, where many rivers run through several countries cooperating on river development and improvement of water quality. Bandler saw this as one of the issues in which the working group could play a major role by bringing the countries involved to talk to each other to begin to agree on a common set of standards and a common vision for the environmental future. Given that some of Jordan's water supply has its source in Syria. he hoped to see Syria as a participant in the multilateral peace process, enabling the two countries to address these kinds of trans-national

In response to a question from the floor, Mr. Bandler clarified the nature of the Bahrain code of conduct. which is at present not a treaty ratified by any of the participating countries, but a politically binding document which has got the consensus of all participating governments, demonstrating their desire and political will to respect its principles and to take them seriously. Concrete steps towards legal implementation of the principles would have to be discussed at subsequent meetings between participating coun-

# Italian trade team | Libya: U.S., U.K. wage campaign

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya on Friday accused Washington and London of waging a "campaign of ter-ror" against Tripoli over the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing although a report cleared the country of involvement in the attack.

'Washington and London are exploiting the Lockerbie incident to lead a provocative campaign of terror against Libva and to impose unjust sanctions." the official news agency JANA charged.

It argued that a U.S. intelligence document, released under the Freedom of Information Act, had exonerated Libya by pointing the finger at an Iranian cleric and former interior minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

"It's becoming obvious that the main reason for this U.S.-British campaign of lies is to strike at Libya, a bastion of Arab nationalism, and to push through the process of surrender." JANA said. referring to the peace process.

of the U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace talks.

On Tuesday, Libya called for the lifting of U.N. sanctions imposed in April 1992 in connection with the Lockerbie bombing, citing the State Department document reported in a Scottish news-

The Daily Record reported that newly-released U.S. intelligence documents impli-cated Iran, not Libya, in the explosion of the Jumbo jet over the Scottish village of Lockerbie.

Tehran's aim, the paper said, was to avenge the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus over the Gulf in July 1988 by the U.S. Navy. the United States insists it was shot down by mistake.

But both Britain and the United States said Thursday they were still convinced Libya alone was behind the mid-air Lockerbie attack

which cost 270 lives.

against two Libyans in the bombing. British Prime Minister John Major said, adding, "There is no evidence to establish that other nersons or nations were involved.`

The U.S. State Department said in Washington that it was still certain Libyan agents were responsible for the Lockerbie bombing, calling the report implicating Iran unfounded.

Washington at first considered the possibility Iran was involved, said a State Department spokesman. But "after an exhaustive threeyear investigation, we've not uncovered any credible evidence to support such a conclusion.

"The evidence linking Libyan agents to the blast is conclusive." charged the spokesman.

Mr. Major told parliament that Scottish legal authorities who are investigating the case were convinced that the evi-

and seek to use the confer-

ence to obtain concessions.

ing for a comprehensive nuc-

lear test ban treaty to replace

the 1963 partial test ban

which does not cover under-

Asked about the insistence

of some Arab states led by

Egypt that Israel, which is

widely believed to have a

nuclear potential, should

move towards signing the NPT, Mr. Graham said: "We

regard the NPT as vital to a

secure Middle East. We think

that Egypt, and indeed

Israel, agree with that as

question for the United

States to resolve. It's a ques-

tion for Egypt and Israel to resolve between them."

Noting the two countries

had discussed the issue, he

said: "We hope that Egypt

can be made sufficiently com-

fortable as a result of its

conversations with Israel to

support indefinite extension

The United States wanted

of the NPT."

"However, this is not a

ground explosions.

well.

They are particularly press-

dence pointed clearly to two Libyans. But Mr. Major told Mr.

Dalayell in a written reply: "The document in question quotes a source relying on second and third party information and stating that the former Iranian interior minister paid \$10 million to have the Lockerbie bombing car-

"Allegations to this effect were first made early in the investigation they were examined at the time by the competent authorities together with a great deal of other often contradictory material, but no evidence has been found to substantiate

British officials earlier this week also dismissed the report as "dud intelligence." Scottish police said Thursday they were drawing up a comprehensive contingency plan in case the two Libyans accused of the bombing were surrendered to Britain.

cial status in the Middle East

as a reason to extend its

refusal to sign the NPT. .

tained its position despite

appeals by European Union (EU) ministers in Israel that it make some sort of gesture

to back the treaty, the

sources said. There were also

discussions in Paris on the

"We trust the EU to

understand Israel's special

situation which demands a

solution tailored to its secur-

ity needs and to regional

realities," Israeli officials said

in response to the EU

appeals, according to the

"Israel does not consider

legitimate or relevant any

linkage made by certain Arab

states between Israel's non-

proliferation policy and their

decision concerning the extension of the NPT," the

sources said, citing Israel's

for the time being, there are regional states which express-

ly advocate Israel's dis-

memberment (Iran, Iraq and

Libya). the sources said.

'Most regional states still

It need be recalled, that

topic this week.

The Jewish state main-

BEIRUT (AFP) — Parents of Lebanese prisoners being held in an Israeli jail in southern Lebanon staged a sit-down protest outside government headquarters here Thursday calling for the Red Cross to be allowed to visit it. Israel has barred groups such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from visiting Khiam jail where about 300 Lebanese are detained, according to a prisoners support group. The group, a monitoring committee, said conditions inside the jail had deteriorated and "three prisoners have died of torture recently." The parents group also criticised the "lax" attitude of the Lebanese government, calling on it to "start an international campaign so that the detainees are treated like prisoners of war." One 28-year-old, held for 10 years without trial, died on Jan. 16 in hospital and two others died in December shortly after their release, the committee said. It quoted former detainees as saying "at least 14 prisoners are wallowing in terrible conditions even though they need hospital treatment." Amnesty International has repeatedly condemned the jail in Israel's self-declared "security zone" and said that according to former prisoners "torture is used."

#### Denktash to run for reelection after all

ANKARA (AFP) - Veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash announced Friday that he would run for reelection in April on the divided island, after several months of saying he would step down. The Turkish-Cypriot news agency TAK, monitored here, said Mr. Denktash made the announcement to journalists. Denktash, 71, has been president of the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus since it was established in 1983. It is recognised only by Ankara. Having already led the Turkish-Cypriot community for more than 30 years, he said last year that he would not run in presidential elections due to take place on April 16. A U.S. presidential envoy said Wednesday a settlement on Cyprus remained elusive, as Nicosia said his talks with Mr. Denktash and President Glafcos Clerides, a Greek-Cypriot, had failed to break a longstanding dead-

# Ramos plans Mideast, European tour

plans to go on a nine-day, five-nation tour of the Middle East and Europe in mid-March, a senior presidential palace official said Friday. The first two stops will be Iran and Turkey to drum up support for Manila's bid to gain observer status in the organisation of the Islamic Conference, said the official who would not be named. The Philippines is predominantly Roman Catholic but has a large Muslim minority. The government is conducting peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which launched a separatist uprising in the south in the early 1970s. Mr. Ramos will also visit Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain to campaign for more foreign investment int he Philippines, the official said.

RIYADH (AFP) - Four expatriates and two Saudi convicts were beheaded on Friday for drug-smuggling and audi interior ministry said. Three expatriat from Pakistan, Nigeria and Chad were executed in the Red Sea city of Jeddah for smuggling heroin and hashish into the kingdom, said the ministry in a statement broadcast on state television. Three others - an Egyptian and two Saudis - were beheaded in Riyadh, the western town of Hael and Assir in the south. on separate charges of murder. Ten people have been executed in Saudi Arabia so far this year, according to a toll compiled from official announcements. Last year, 58 people were beheaded.

# Mubarak to visit Japan in March

make a state visit to Japan in March, a foreign ministry source was quoted as saying here Friday. Mr. Mubarak cancelled a planned visit to Japan in May last year because of Morihiro Hosokawa's sudden resignation as Japanese prime minister. Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama is expected to seek Egypt's further efforts for Middle East peace when he meets Mr. Mubarak here, Jiji Press said, adding the Egyptian leader would arrive on

# Tehran police block protest

demonstrators from protesting in front of the Russian embassy against the military assault on the breakaway republic of Chechenya. Several hundred people left prayers at Tehran University and marched towards the embassy in downtown Tehran to condemn what they termed the "massacre" in the Muslim-majority territory, correspondents reported. But they were stopped by helmeted and baton-wielding policemen blocking roads leading to the compound. The demonstration, organised by Islamic students associations, dispersed without incident,

# U.S. says Iran seeks nuke option their large nuclear arsenals,

The United States believes Iran has decided to pursue a nuclear weapons option although it is currently in full compliance with the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a top U.S. arms official said Thursday.
"The United States be-

lieves that Iran has taken a decision to pursue a nuclear weapons option, even though they are a party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," Ambassador Thomas Graham told a news conference.

"Right now, Iran is fully in compliance with all of its NPT obligations. It is their intentions that concern us. not their current compliance with NPT obligations," he added.

Mr. Graham, the U.S. president's special repre-sentative for arms control and disarmament affairs, heads the U.S. delegation to a committee preparing for a conference scheduled for April 17 to May 12 to decide about extending the NPT. The options are an indefi-

nite extension or an extension for one or more fixed periods, after which the treaty could lapse.

The United States, most other Western countries and

U.S. officials said they won

pledges on Thursday from

Somalia's main warlords not

to attack a U.S.-led task

force shielding the withdraw-

al of United Nations troops

from the Horn of Africa

But they said if the war-

lords failed to keep their

word or could not control

other militias in Somalia, the

multi-national force would

have the firepower to re-

spond to "any eventuality."

The U.N. Security Council

has set next March 31 as its

deadline for the pullout of remaining U.N. peacekeep-

ers and civilian staff from

The withdrawal, code-

named "United Shield" and

involving about 18 navy ves-

sels, will end a \$1 billion-a-

year operation which began

in December 1992 and failed

to bring peace to the devas-

Most experts predict clan

warfare will erupt with a vengeance as the last of the

9,000 troops still in the U.N.

Operation in Somalia (UN-

OSOM) sails off into the

David Simpson, U.S.

country.

Somalia.

tated country.

Indian Ocean.

NAIROBI (R) — Senior amba

unconditional extension of the 25-year-old treaty. Mr. Graham estimated this

had the support so far of various groups and organisations accounting for 60 to 65 votes — short of the required 86 representing a clear majority of the 170 countries bound by the NPT. But he added: "There are

many other countries around the world that are favourably disposed... and we believe that world that are favourably disposed... and we believe that we will have a significant majority of the states parties (to the treaty) prepared to vote for indefinite extension by the time the vote is held."

Under the treaty, non-nuclear weapons states pledged not to acquire such arms and to submit to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.
The acknowledged nuclear

powers — the United States. Russia, Britain, France and China - agreed to pursue good faith negotiations towards ending the arms race and to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology. Many non-nuclear states

the U.S. team met five war-

lords and 50 lesser leaders in

the Somali capital during

"Basically all the five lead-

ers pledged not to interfere

with our role in UNOSOM

troop withdrawal... and in

fact promised cooperation,

conference in Nairobi.

Simpson told a news

Vice Admiral Scott Redd.

who will command the force.

said between 7,000-8,000

U.S. naval and military per-

sonnel would take part in the

operation. Britain, France,

taly, Malaysia and Pakistan

had so far agreed to join the

task force under U.S. com-

The puliout of troops and

their hardware would take

not more than seven days

after the taskforce had estab-

lished a safe perimeter on the

mainland at the seaport and

when it would begin but

added he would make the

March 31 deadline "with time

plan for the worst and hope for the best," Adm. Redd

"The bottom line is we

Adm. Redd declined to say

mand, he said.

airport, he said.

to spare."

Thursday's day trip.

Mr.

all countries to join, but "we don't believe that we can pressure countries to do that. They have to be persuaded. feel the nuclear powers have not lived up to their end of the bargain, as evidenced by

consider themselves in a for-Diplomatic sources said Somali warlords pledge peace during U.N. pullout

response.

dor to Somalia, said replied when asked what he Harriers and Cobra helico would do if the warlords ters. broke their word and attack-Most diplomats, including Mr. Simpson, expect fighting "The force that we will

> be capable of handling any eventuality."
> The U.S. team said they met separately the two most powerful warlords, Moham-

mad Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi Mohammad. It was the first meeting between General Aideed and U.S. officials since President Bill Clinton withdrew his troops almost a year ago after

have assembled offshore will

they became embroiled in an undeclared war with the warlord and his militia. In one clash 18 U.S. Marines were killed. Marine Lieutenant-General Anthony Zinni, who

will command multinational forces on the ground after they establish their beachhead, said his men would destroy any military equipment they were unable to

U.N. officials in Mogadishu said the operation would have overwhelming firepower with 2,600 U.S. Marines. AC-130 gunships.

to break out between rival factions in Mogadishu after the U.N. pullout, with each trying to grab what they can of abandoned territory and equipment.

But David shinn, the State Department's East Africa director, said war was not a foregone conclusion." About 28,000 U.S. troops

first came to Somalia in 1992 as part of a U.N. force to curb anarchy and support aid efforts. Mr. Clinton announced

last December that the U.S. military would return to support the final withdrawal of UNOSOM. Remaining U.N. troops in-

clude 5.800 from Pakistan, 1.600 from Bangladesh and ,100 Egyptians. U.N. officials said the U.S.-led force would also re-

move 30 M-60 tanks, 75 armoured personnel carriers, Cobra attack helicopters and OH-58 Scout helicopters. The American equipment has been under lease to the United Nations.

# princess Her Im-princess Her Im-princess Princess risk Highness Princess of Japan with Works National Red National Red Officent Society's Mohammad Hussein Tantawi said Thursday. "To keep the ('0'5'CS') shield after the peace we have to keep up the capacity to dissuade all those ipanese princess ipanes ing at the JNKCS hos-ing at the JNKCS hos-ing was equipped to was equipped though contributions brough Japanese gov-tom the land the

who try to attack Egypt. We want peace and we will defend it," he said at a military ceremony, according to the official agency MENA. But he added that "successful peace has to be based on that of the strong not of the weak." The commander of forces along the Suez Canal, General Sadda Abu Rida, said that those who wanted to harm Egypt "must know that it has the weapons capable of punishing those that take a single step onto" Egyptian soil. The comments came amid a war of words between Egypt and Israel over the Jewish state's nuclear arsenal.

# Parents demand Red Cross access to Israeli jail

# MANILA (AFP) - Philippine President Fiedel Ramos

# Six beheaded in Saudi Arabia

# TOKYO (AFP) — Egyptian Presidnet Hosni Mubarak will

TEHRAN (AFP) - Police on Friday prevented Islamic

#### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO 17:06 ...... Que Le Mielluer Gagne

18:00 18:30	L'Histoire Du Cirque
	ie Fantastique Des En-
	fants News in French
	Fa UI Pas Revera
19:30	Harry and Hendersons
	Innovations
21:15	Murder She Wrote
	Feature film: "Country" Major Dad

# **PRAYER TIMES**

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St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Amunication Tel.

#### De la Saile Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Assusciation Tel 623541 Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691, The Evangelical Local Church in

# WEATHER

Tel. 811295

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Skies will be cloudy in the after-noon with a chance of showers in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. Temperatures are expected to drop slightly with winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather condi-tions with prevail with winds north-

# Amman 4 13 Aqaba 6 21 Deserts 1 15 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16. Aqaba 21 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent.

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Dr. Walid Al Masri 675435	Comple
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070	Telephon
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**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR** 

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Fire Brigade 617101	
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# RJ Flight Information .... 08-55200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

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Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.
642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mainas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171.4
Shmersam Hospital 669131
L'annagin : !
University Hospital \$45845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
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Al-Ahir, Abdah 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Arms Marks Constant
Army Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amai Hospital 674155
AARUA:
Zarna Govi. Hospital 109/983323
Zarqa National Hospital
(09)900560
The Sun a House of the Sun House of the
Ibn Sma Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikara Modern Hespital (09)990990
UCSU:
Princess Basma Hospital . 1021275555
UPCCE Catholic Hospital 1971-7775
the Al Natoes Hospital 102;247100
ADARA-

Princess Hava Hospital .... (03)314111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

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Royal	Jordanian	(RJ
Filghts		
(Termin	nal 1)	
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	Aqa	
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	Sementi rida	OB (10

# Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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04:20 .		٠ ١	icnna (OS)
16:10 .	Ron	ю. Dan	ascus (MZ)
18:15	•		Dubai (EK)
17:00			Sanaa ([Y)
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#### **DEPARTURES** Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminai 1)

07:00	Aqaba (R.
10:30	Jeddah (add) (R
11:15	Amsterdam New Yark / D
11:35	Geneva, Madrid (R
11:40	Paris, Brussels (R.
12:00	London (R.
12:45	
19:45	Bahrain, Doha (R.
20:05	Larnaca (Ri
20:30	Jeddah (R.
20:40	Damascus (R.
21:25	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (R.
94:10	London (R.
	London (RC
Othe	r Flights (Terminal 2)

..... Beirur (R.I)

# .... Beirut (ME)

88:20

. Damascus. Paris (AF)

London (BA)

#### Cairo (MS) HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Amman .... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

#### **MARKET PRICES** Upper/lower price in fils per kg. . 700/ 409

Banana (Mukammar)

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820 / 400

Carrot	. 2401
Cauliflower	1207
Cucumbers (large)	200 / 1
Cucumbers (small)	120 / 3
Egenlant	280/ I
Eggplant	840/5
Grape Fruit	280 / 1
Lengon	300 / 1
Marrow (large)	150 / 1
Marrow (small)	320 / 2
Onion (green)	390/2
Onion (dry)	340/ 2
	. 700/5
report (bot)	740 / 5
Pepper (sweet)	350 / 2
Potato	300/ 3
Radish	160 / H
Spinach	150 10

outside Amman," for in view people must have the or ware. He opened the exhibition Agaba because he wanted bring art to Aqaba resi-

# ents and because he felt that alors to the Red Sea Port.

THIRD JORDANIAN TIVAL Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ya

flearing) at the Royal Cultur Lecture (in Arabic) entitled LECTUR Economic Role of the Arab Oi Manduh Salameh at Abdul H tion at 6:00 p.m.

FOOD BAZ Food bazaar (including cakes, and zaatar, lemonade, and or a.m. d. no. 7 School, Jaba! /

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MARKET PRICE

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In for resk.

Princess Sarvath, Princess Masako visit JNRCS: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Friday presents Her Imperial Highness Princess Masako of Japan with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society's (JNRCS) shield after the Japanese princess opened a radiology section at the JNRCS hospital in Amman. The section was equipped through contributions from the Japanese government and the Japanese Red Cross Society. The equipment presented to the hospital. worth about \$210,000. includes X-ray machines, incubators, and ultra-



# Britain pledges help with Jordan's foreign debt

LONDON (Petra) - British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg told a visiting Jordanian parliamentary delegation that his country understands the difficulties facing the Jordanian economy and will continue to help endeavours to deal with

sound machines.

its foreign debt.
Mr. Hogg expressed Britain's concern over Israel's nuclear weapons and said that London was continuing to apply pressure on the Jewish state to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

He also voiced his country's call on Israel to halt its Jewish settlement programmes in Arab lands and to arrange for Palestinian elections in implementation of the requirements of the peace

The head of the Jordanian delegation, Senator Marwan Hmoud, told Mr. Hogg that Jordan was continually facing economic, financial and political pressures as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Hmoud called on Britain to extend economic and financial assistance to the Kingdom to help it cope with its heavy burdens.

Discussion also covered the democratic process in the Kingdom, Jordan's peace treaty with Israel and economic matters.

The Jordanian delegation had visited the British parliament and met with members of the ruling Conservative and the opposition Labour parties for similar discus-





# Israeli- Arabs, ICRC pledge new efforts to help people of Chechenya

By Cathy King by Um Al Fahm Mayor Special to the Jordan Times Ra'ed Salah, has pledged AMMAN — The Jordanian Committee for the Support of the People of the Independent Caucassian Republic of mansaid. Chechenya (JCSCP) has launched a new appeal urgenty requesting medical supplies, medicine and medical equipment for the people of Chechenya.

nitarian aid aims to "reduce the suffering of a small Muslim people exposed to unjust aggression," said a statement signed by JCSCP Chairman Said Bino.

Meanwhile a delegation of Israeli-Arabs visited the JCSCP centre in Sweileh Thursday to learn more about the situation in Chechenya, Mr. Bino told the Jordan Times. The delegation, headed

by Um Al Fahm Mayor support for the Chechen cause and said that he would endeavour to collect humanitarian aid, Mr. Bino

"The delegation is willing to cooperate with the committee here and is planning to collect donations to help those suffering in Chechenya," Mr. Bino

Mr. Bino said that longterm assistance is also required to redevelop the damaged areas in the Caucassian republic which has been under attack by Russian forces for over six

According to Mr. Bino, the Arab-Israeli delegation intends to hold peaceful demonstrations during the month of Ramadan in various towns in Israel to highlight the plight of the

Chechen people.

In the meantime, the ICRC announced Thursday it had launched a tracingprogramme to locate missing family members and has begun to set up a network for the exchange of family news.

A statement said that the civilian population in Chechenya has no means of communication. Displaced persons inside Chechenya and those that have fled to the neighbouring Republic of Ingushtia and Daghestan in southern Russia are impossible to contact, the statement added.

"(ICRC) delegates are coordinating their efforts with the civilian authorities of every district in Chechenya and with the local Red Cross and Red Crescent that collect and distribute the messages,' the statement explained.

adding that Grozny is the only town in which the mail

Douglas Hogg

service cannot operate. The ICRC anticipates difficulties in implementing the tracing programme given the "precarious security conditions" and that most of those displaced do not have permanent addresses.

ICRC delegates running the mail service are therethe conflict zones to send messages to relatives outside Chechenya to reassure them of their fate. The statement reported that the population and local authorities have reacted positively to this "humanitarian Communication facilities

(postal and telephone ser-

vices) are still operational in Ingushtia and Daghestan, allowing contacts with and irrigation.

# ESCWA introduces work plan to establish business incubators'

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) presented a work plan to establish a "business or industrial incubator" for women entrepreneurs during a lecture Thursday at the Amman Chamber of Com-

The business incubator, a new concept to help small businesses get started, provides a setting where small enterprises can use industrial machinery rather than making costly capital expenditure to purchase such

The work plan suggested establishing a task force to provide overall guidance. This task force would consist of representatives from ESCWA, the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNI-FEM) and other potential

sponsors. The plan suggested undertaking a sample field survey of women's enterpreneurial profiles and needs, women's characteristics, and support and advisory services needed. The sample would cover existing and potential en-

The paper also recommended assessing the role

and impact of selected Jordanian institutions in-· voled in the development, promotion of and support for small enterprises.

In addition, the plan also implied designing the incubator on the basis of the results of the field survey as well as on the assessment made of Jordanian institu-

The work plan proposed finding a location of the business incubator preparing a business plan and organising a workshop for prospective tenants and Zohra Merabet, regional

programme advisor for UNIFEM, said that a survey was recently conducted on 750 women from banks, commercial sectors and associations such as the BPWC to help design an incubation system.

"The objective of this study was to assess the needs and problems of women entrepreneurs in Jordan," Ms. Merabet said addressing the participants who represented banks. ministers and the industrial

sectors. According to Ms. Merabet, the study revealed several important facts concerning women who own and operate small businesses.

One, she pointed out is that 44 per cent of the businesses are sole ownership, 65 per cent of the

businesses were less than five-years-old, 47.5 per cent of the women who own businesses were between the ages of 30 to 39, and 46 per cent of the women surveyed had a uni-

versity degree. According to Ms. Merabet, the study concluded that women entrepreneurs are still invisible in the Jordanian economy, and that the existing data base should be used for further statistical analysis of managerial aspects and listed problems.

In addition, Ms. Merabet said, the result of the survey does not apply to all women entrepreneurs in Jordan; "it is rather an indication where we can move within a specific framework.

During the lecture, Zaki Ayoubi, the economic advisor at the BPWC, listed the requirements for a business incubator.

"One of the main demands for this project to succeed is having Jordanian government institutions such as the Amman Municipality and others support and adopt the project," Dr. Ayoubi said.

In addition, he said, capital is another require-

Finding a suitable location and running the pro-ject as if it is a business project with legislation governing the project, he said, is also essential Hussein Sharif, director of the industrial section at ESCWA said that in the

early 1980s, the concentration was on large industries while small industries were neglected. According to Dr. Sharif, recent statistics released by

to 70 per cent of new enterprises will be forced to stop operations after one year of establishment, "and this is a high rate," he added.
"The idea of the business incubators arose because many small businesses lack financial and managerial experience, but the busi-

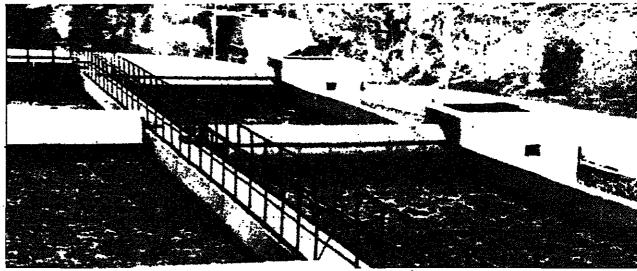
the U.N. indicated that 50

facilities and support such institutes," Dr. Sharif explained. The lecture, which was organised by the BPWC in and UNIFEM was

ness incubator can provide

attended by representatives of government. UNIFEM will hold a three-day workshop related to the same issue and will focus on broad topics concerning all sectors which influence and strengthen enterprises and their em-

ployees' performance. The workshop, to be held at the Jordanian Inter .Continental Hotel will be attended by more than 20 representatives of ministries, banks, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).



A waste water treatment plant in Jerash

# Water ministry to sign agreement to boost treatment plant efficiency

AMMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of Water and Irrigation tomorrow will sign an agreement with a consortium of local and foreign companies to carry out a project to boost the efficiency of the Khirbet Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant near Zarqa, according to Saleh Irsheidat, minister of water

Speaking during an inspec-tion tour of the plant Thursday, the minister said that the \$10.6 million project will be financed from a grant from

the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Upon completion of the project, in two years, the ministry will begin a parallel project which entails laying a 40-kilometre pipeline to carry waste water from Ain Ghazal Waste Water Plant near Amman to Khirbet Al Samra plant because the existing line can no longer cope with the increasing amounts of effluence, said Dr. Irsheidat. He said the new pipeline would cost around JD 31.5

million and will be financed from a soft loan from the German government. The laying of the pipeline will take an entire year.

In justifying the measures, the minister said that population growth in the Amman region has brought about additional pressure on the Khirbet Al Samra plant. The plant, which was built by the Jordanian government

at the cost of JD 17 million in 1985 was designed to treat 6,800 cubic metres of waste effluence per day, but effluence has increased to 191 per cent in 1994, causing more concentration of organine substances to appear in the treated water coming out from the plant.

The ministry also plans to build installations at Ain Ghazal plant to boost its performance, minimise the stench from the plant and better absorb the effluence arriving there from the greater Amman area, said Dr.

# First art exhibition opens in Aqaba

AMMAN — Agaba's first art exhibition, with 20 paintings by Syrian artist Hala Mahayni, Friday was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Rajwa Bint Ali. The organiser of the exhibition. gallery owner Khaldoun Dawnd from Fuhais, told the Jordan Times that the exhibition will run for a month, and that it will be followed by more exhibitions, each lasting a month, of Arab and

uropean artists. Mr. Dawud said he "regrets that there is no cultural life outside Amman," for in his view, "people must have access to art.

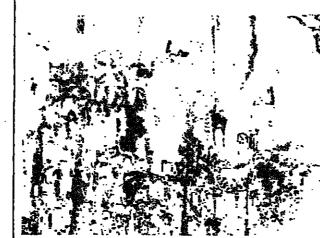
He opened the exhibition in Agaba because he wanted to bring art to Aqaba residents and because he felt that visitors to the Red Sea Port, foreigners and Jordanians alike, should find art in the

The exhibition is housed in the foyer of the Petra International Hotel.

Asked why he chose a hotel as the venue for his exhibition, Mr. Dawud replied that he could not find a more suitable location to display the paintings. The unfortunate result is

that, according to the observations of botel manager Bassam Ismail, mostly tourists have come to see the exhibition so far. But Mr. Dawud said he

hopes that interest among the local population will grow as the word spreads and exhibitions become a regular feature of the resort town's cultural life.



Painting by Hala Mahayni

# **WHAT'S GOING ON**

#### THIRD JORDANIAN DRAMA FES-TIVAL

Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ya Sam'een" (Ye Who Are Hearing) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

# **LECTURE**

the Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Has the Political and Economic Role of the Arab Oil Really Gone?" by Dr. Mamduh Salameh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

# FOOD BAZAAR

☆ Food bazaar (including cakes, maftool, pickles, labaneh) and zaatar, lemonade, and orangeade, and others) at the Al Ahliyyah School, Jabal Amman on Sunday (11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.).

# **NOVEL RECITAL**

Novel recital by novelist Yousef Damra at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

# **EXHIBITIONS**

\* Exhibition of pastel, watercolour, oil paintings and photography by Jordanian artist Maral Mahredjian at the Watani Sporting Club, Amman.

☆ Photographic exhibition entitled "To Be or Not to Be — Industry Destroys Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre. ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Mohammad Labadi at Alia Art Gallery.

 ★ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya Centre) drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute.

★ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhir Muhammad at the Ab'ad Art Gallery.

# Seminar reviews study on reality of women's lives

than 20 prominent professional women participated in a seminar on the reality of Jordanian women's lives at the Oueen Alia Fund for Social Development.

The seminar, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and organised by the coordinating office for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September, was part of a study on the situation of women in Jordan conducted by a team of experts led by researcher Nawal Hashisho and Sociologist Sari Nasser.

The study will be presented at the women's conference and includes an evaluation of

AMMAN (Petra) - More women's lives in the eight dimensions identified by the United Nations.

These are: women and decision-making: women's share of education, health and employment: women and economic decision-making: the effects of poverty on women; violence against women; the effects of wars and internal conflicts on women; awareness of women's rights and abilities; and the mechanisms and programmes to advance women at a national level. The seminar participants

included women from several walks of life, all of whom contributed their experience and expertise to the seminar.

Fridays.

# Council approves new food, medicine plants AMMAN (Petra) - The De-

velopment Council, recently formed by the Cabinet, has approved four new projects as certified economic schemes, entitling them to exemptions from customs duty and other privileges, according to Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif

The minister said the projects, which will have a total capital of JD 6.5 million are considered useful to the economy, particularly to the country's agro-industry.

plant to produce frozen French fried and mashed potatoes. The plant is expected to cost of JD 3 mil-

Another similar plant will produce cooked and frozen French fried potatoes. It is expected to cost of JD 2 million million. Two other plants will produce veterinary medicines'; one is to be located at Qastal and have a JD 1 million capital, the other is to be set up at Sahab Industrial City at a cost of JD 500,000.

According to Mr. Ben The minister said he ex-Tarif, one of the projects pects such projects will cut involves the establishment a imports of similar products

# Jordan Cancer Society to begin nation-wide awareness campaign

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The health awareness committee of the Jordan Cancer Society (JCS) will start a nation-wide campaign to promote the importance of early detection and medical check-ups in the di-

agnosis and treatment of can-

Committee Chairman Sami Ahmad Khatib said the campaign includes lectures, slide

shows and seminars to be conducted at secondary schools for girls, universities and women's socities in the

The campaign which is to be launched shortly, will focus on educating women on how to conduct breast selfexaminations to check for breast tumours, Dr. Khatib told the Jordan Times.

Nearly 90 per cent of the women in the Kingdom do not conduct regular selfexaminations; often breast tients. cancer is discovered too late, said Dr. Khatib.

The campaign will urge women to see their doctors if they suspect anything unusual or detect any unusual growths or bleeding, said Dr. Khatib.

The committee plans to extend its campaign to hospitals where committee specialists will lecture nurses on what Dr. Khatib called the "management of pain" and the treatment of cancer pa-

Dr. Khatib said that the country lacks a national registry of cancer cases and that such a data would be useful in the fight against the disease. He said that in 1993 alone

the number of new cancer cases registered at Al Bashir

Hospital was 1,350. He said that with the growing number of cancer cases the JCS committee plans to carry out more awarenes

China police

BELTING (R) - Police in Inner Mongolia have rescued more than 500 women abducted from across China

and sold to local peasants as

rescue 500 sold women

# Christopher blasts Republican bid to reduce peacekeeping role

WASHINGTON (AP) — his successor, Rep. Ben Gil-Secretary of State Warren man of New York, that the Christopher told the new congressional majority that its attempt to cut back U.S. involvement in U.N. peacekeeping risks leaving the United States with a choice between "acting alone or doing nothing."

With blunt language, Mr. Christopher also said Thursday that a Republican proposal to require congressional approval to send American troops aboard in a U.N. operation under a foreign commander "is unconstitutional. and it is certainly, in my judgment, very bad policy.

The partisan tension among members of the House International Relations Committee, formerly the Foreign Affairs Committee, was clear even before Mr. Christopher began his review of the administration's

foreign policy.
Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, who chaired the panel when the Democrats were in the majority, complained to

Vietnam,

to settle

property

States will settle property

claims with Hanoi and is ex-

pected to open its first di-

plomatic mission in Vietnam

since the end of the Vietnam

war in 1975 Saturday, offi-

Two agreements on prop-

erty will be signed in Hanoi,

an authorised Vietnamese

The signing will clear the

way for the two governments

to open liaison offices in

Hanoi and Washington which

will serve as embassies in all

mark in the slow normalisa-

tion of relations between the

Communist government in

Hanoi, which won the war,

and the United States, which

backed the losing South Viet-nam regime in Saigon, since renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

One will cover over 30

U.S. government buildings in Ho Chi Minh City, including

the embassy from whose roof

helicopters lifted Americans

and Vietnamese in a last-

minute evacuation before

Communist forces seized

Vietnam's state oil firm

Petrovietnam has ben using

the former embassy and is

Apparently because Viet-

nam is a sensitive subject for

a Clinton administration fac-

ing a Republican-dominated-

Congress, U.S. officials in

Hanoi refused to confirm the

U.S. liaison office would

When it does, a low-key

Conservative U.S. politi-

cians, some war veterans'

groups and families of more than 2,000 U.S. servicemen

listed as missing in action

(MIA) in Indochina oppose

President Bill Clinton's

moves to improve relations

Last February, he lifted a

30-year-old economic embar-

go against Hanoi but said

further steps towards norma-

lisation - such as full di-

plomatic relations — de-

pended on progress in the

U.S. campaign to determine

The Vietnamese source

said the second agreement to

be signed Saturday would

cover private property

It was not known if this

meant the two sides had set-

tled claims to commercial

property on which the U.S.

government has been nego-

the fate of the MIAs.

open Saturday.

with Vietnam.

opening is expected.

moving out, officials say.

Saigon on April 30, 1975.

The accords will be a land-

cials said Friday.

source said.

but name.

U.S.

row

Democrats hadn't yet seen the latest version of the National Security Revitalisation Act.

Mr. Hamilton said he'd like to delay committee consideration of the bill until next week but conceded that 'you and the leadership want to proceed with markup tomorrow, so I think we have to accept that."

Mr. Christopher said the legislation would "deal peacekeeping a lethal blow.' He said the result would be "financial chaos" as other nations, including the NATO allies and Japan, almost certainly would follow suit. 'Under current circumst-

ances, it would threaten to

end U.N. peackeeping over-

night.'

"It would leave us an un-

"We certainly don't want to prohibit peackeeping," responded Mr. Gilman.

Under questioning by symapthetic Democrats, Mr. Christopher said the GOP proposal, if it had been law, would have barred U.S. participation in the defence of South Korea in the 1950s and in the Desert Shield operation mounted by President George Bush to repel the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Turning to congressional

proposals demanding that the United States unilaterally lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian government, Mr. Christopher said such action would "widen the war, increase the killing and make a bad situation worse, if that's

He then challenged the members of Congress to "be honest" with the Bosnian government. "If the arms embargo is unilaterally lifted, and the Muslims get in trouble, will you send United States troops to help them?

Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, defended the United Nations and noted that such Republican luminaries as former Presidetns Bush and Reagan also stressed the importance of that body to U.S. interests.

In a speech in Washington to the Council on Foreign Relations, Ms. Albright said the United Nations enables the United States in many circumstances to influence events without assuming the full burden of risks.

"It lends the weight of law and world opinion to causes and principles we support," she said. "And the more able the U.N. is to end or contain conflict, the less likely it is that we will have to deploy our armed forces."
Meanwhile, a U.S. expert

said Thursday with its plan to let nations drop out of a nuclear test ban treaty after 10 years, Washington is hampering its own campaignagainst the spread of atomic weapons.

2 people

shooting

die in U.S.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)

- A law student randomly

fired a semiautomatic rifle as

he walked a street near the

University of North Carolina.

killing two people and

wounding at least two others.

the legs. He was then tackled

by a bystander who was shot

in the struggle.
The wounded — the man

who tackled the gunnan, a police officer and another

student — were taken to a

hospital. None suffered life-

threatening injuries, author-

The shooting spree, which started around 2 p.m. Thursday, shook the 200-year-old

University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill, which has

he was shooting at random,

and he was shooting at any-

body he saw," said attorney

Bob Epting, 50. "He looked

like he was on his way to his

One man, a student on a

bike, was gunned down in

front of a sorority house.

Another man was killed a

of the rooming house where he lived. Police said the man

near the sorority house was a

student and it wasn't im-

mediately clear if the other

victim also was. Police we-

ren't releasing the victims'

"He was shooting at me.

about 24,400 students.

ities said.

own death."

Police shot the gunman in

Firefighters and divers are patrolling on a raft to rescue inhabitants that might be trapped by floods on the streets of Quimberle, Brittany, western France, as a result of the heavy

# 18 die as rain, snowstorms lash Europe

LONDON (R) — At least 18 people died as blizzards and record rain swept northern Europe, six of them children killed when winds toppled a crane onto a French school. Vast areas of Germany, France and the Netherlands were under water Thursday and snowstorms paralysed northern England. Weather forecasters said more rain and snow were on the way, threatening further chaos and

possible crop damage. Rainfall in western France has been the heaviest for 150 years and 12 people died there in flood-related accidents.

A police officer said the victims of the accident at the private Christian school in the centre of Toul in eastern France were all believed to be aged between 16 and 18. Two others were seriously

There was a lot of wind and the crane fell over onto the school," a shopkeeper

Police recovered the bodies of two men and a woman from a car swept into the harbour at the port of Concarneau Thursday. They had been reported missing at the weekend, when three othes died in flood-related accidents in the region.

Several towns faced their sixth day of flooding and evacuated residents have been unable to return home.

In Paris, the Seine was 3.95 metres (13 ft) above normal. blocking riverside roads and forcing the cancellation of sightseeing boat cruises because of dangerous currents.

Four people died in fierce snowstorms sweeping northern England, apparently through heart attacks or hypothermia.

A man collapsed and died

in the snow walking to his House in Leeds Wednesday night, and another after abandoning his car near the city as 14 inches (35 cm) of snow fell overnight.

Thousands of motorists were trapped on blocked roads and police and ambulances were at full stretch. The snow has brought absolute chaos everywhere," a police spokesman said.

A 20-year-old Swedish woman was killed in an avalanche while skilling off piste in the Norwegian mountains. Rescuers dug her out and flew her to Liliehammer Hospital where she died.

Rivers burst their banks in several German towns and officials warned that even worse conditions may be on the way for many low-lying areas. An 81-year-old man drowned in the central town of Bad Kreuznach and in Bavaria, rising water cut traf-

fic and flooded streets. The situation is slowing becoming critical," said a police spokesman in Saar.

where several towns were under water.

In Germany, heavy rains and flooding hampered farm work and low-lying fields were soaked. But the winter barley crop should stand the onslaught for seven more days and rye and wheat are safe for 10 days, a local crop report said.

French grain crops, too, were reported to be safe so

In the low-lying Netherlands, officials said water levels on the Rhine were rising rapidly and warned that shipping would have to stop Saturday to prevent dykes from collapsing. Two villages in the district of Limburg had to be evacuated.

Rivers burst their banks in southern Belgium, flooding roads and houses, but the damage was not expected to be as severe as in the damag-ing December 1993 floods, officials said.

In contrast, Portuguese farmers complained cereal crops would be damaged unless there was substantial rain in the next two weeks. Clear weather also brought damaging frosts at night.

Northern Spain was hit by heavy rainstorms. But reservoirs in southern Andalusia were at a record low levels and lack of snow in the Sierra Nevada caused postponement of next week's World.

Skiing Championships there.

# ast rebel stronghold falls to Rangoon

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - About 15,000 Burmese troops captured the last major stronghold of one of the world's longest running inthe ruling junta's opposition

Friday. The Karen National Union, the military arm of the Karen ethnic insurgency, told the Associated Press it evacuated thousands of civilians from its headquarters of Manerplaw Thursday.

It said Rangoon's troops pounded the 1,000 rebels defending the base with artillery and small arms overnight and its ground forces pushed the remaining rebels out of the base at 9 a.m.

"It is a major defeat in the loss of ground, but morale is still quite high," said a Karen rebel who demanded anonymity. "We will continue to

The rebel said the group had retreated to Thi Thay Kee, several kilometres from Manerplaw among the Burmese-Thai border. The troops are to move further away from the border, which is now Saturday with Burmese troops, and return to hit-and-run guerrilla warfare,

The Karen have been fighting for greater autonomy since 1948. The group, which has 4,000 troops, is the largest and most important The group is closely aligned with the self-declared opposition government and student rebels who fled Rangoon after the junta crushed a prodemocracy uprising in 1988. The Karen headquarters of Manerplaw was the centre of the opposition movement.

The rebels have refused to say how many casualties they suffered.

The offensive came three years after Rangoon declared a unilateral ceasefire to convince the dozen or so ethnic minority insurgencies to lay down their arms.

Rangoon began moving in on Manerplaw in December. It launched its final assault a week ago to bring to heel the four ethnic groups that have refused to sign ceasefires.

The Karen had offered late last year to negotiate an end to the war with Rangoon but were rebuffed.

Sources close to the rebels said Rangoon had 50 armoured personnel carriers posted just 30 kilometres

from the headquarters of Manerplaw and had pounded it for a week with artillery

from three sides. "They are trying to finish ing superior weapons and manpower," said Sen Aung, minister of health and education for the self-declared National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma. an opposition group. "We will continue to struggle for democracy and equality for our people."

The attack on the jungle base forced up to 10,000 refugees across the border into Thailand, Mr. Sen Aung

The United States urged Rangoon Thursday to end the fighting.

"The United States government calls upon the government of Burma to act in accordance with its own oftstated intent to resolve its difficulties with Burma's ethnic minorities peacefully, State Department spokes woman Christine Shelly said Thursday in Washington, D.C. "We call on the Burmese government to respect the human rights of all its

wives, the People's Daily said Friday. Such campaigns are underway across China in the runup to next week's Lunar New Year holiday, the country's biggest, the official newspaper said. Police in Inner Mongolia broke up 33 abduction gangs in 1994, arresting 168 gang members and rescuing 487 women and their children, it reported. In a stepped-up pre-holiday campaign this month, police in the northern province said the liberated 37 more women aged 16 to 24 and assigned five officers to escort them home to Sichuan province to the south, it said. In a parallel crackdown reported in last week in Shanxi province in the north, police said they rescued more than 200 women in just three days and returned them to their hometowns. Abduction of women for sale as wives is common. especially in remote and backward areas where large numbers of men must compete for a shrinking pool of: eligible women. The skewed sex ratio has resulted from the migration of rural women > eager to take better jobs in : China's cities as well as the traditional Chinese preference for male offspring. Since ultrasound machines arrived; in China 15 years ago, growing numbers of peasants have been able to screen the sex of . their foetuses and to abort: those found to be female, a modern version of the tradi- : tional scourge of female infanticide. Billionaire

# recluse Getty in secret wedding

LONDON (R) — John Paul

Getty II, the reclusive bil-

lionaire who has been dogged . in equal measure by wealth and death, has married his companion of 20 years whom he once said had been his, inspiration in life. "I got married on Dec. 29, in Barbados," the 62-year-old philanthropist said in a terse state-. ment to the media. Getty's one-time love of heroin and rum has been usurped by a passion for cricket and old books. He has credited his long-time companion Victoria Holdsworth, once a fashion model, for the turnaround. "I owe everything, repeat everything, to Victoria. She has been my inspiration, you could say," he once said. A spokesman for Getty said: "It's true. The wedding took place in Barbados on Dec. 29 last year. Life pre-Holdsworth was tumultuous even in the best of times. Both have been married before. Getty's first marriage ended in divorce. His second wife died of a drug overdose in 1971 and he was swiftly cut out of his father's will, left, with just \$500. His grandmother stepped into the breach and left Getty a fortune that is estimated at £1.6. billion (\$2.55 billion). Tragedy continued, however, when his son Paul was seized by Italian kidnappers in 1971. Getty could not afford to pay the ransom and appealed to his father. Only when Paul's ear arrived at the offices of a Rome newspaper did Gettysenior pay the \$1.25 million. Paul suffered a drug-induced stroke a decade later, leaving. him paralysed and nearly blind. One of Getty's daughters has contracted AIDS. said the newspaper. The burly recluse left the United. States and moved to England. in the 1970s, becoming a'. legendary philanthropist who recently donated £1 million. (\$1.59 million) to keep Canova's Three Graces statue in

#### Simpson trial draws up to 30% of **Americans**

LOS ANGELES (R) — The first three days of the O.J. Simpson trial proved to be a. winner for the television net-1. works, with up to 30 per cent of Americans tuned in to live coverage of what has been called the murder trial of the century, a ratings analyst said Thursday. David Poltrack, a. ratings analyst with CBS, said!. ABC and CBS drew the highest ratings, but NBC and CNN had the largest gains over their average daytime. ratings. "It looks like CBSand ABC are doing about the same size audiences with O.J. that they do with their soap operas," said Mr. Poltrack.
"But NBC, which doesn't." have the strong soap operas, is up. The real winner is coming from CNN," he

# Kashmir city shuts down to protest lack of security

JAMMU, India (R) - The 17,000 lives according to Kashmiri city of Jammu came to a standstill Friday in protest against security forces' failure to prevent bombings which killed eight people and injured 60 during an Indian Republic Day parade.

HANOI (R) - The United Shops and businesses closed, schoolchildren stayed at home and roads were almost empty as people answered a call by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for a one-day general strike.

Jammu, winter capital of the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir, is home to many of the Hindus in India's only Muslim majority state.

Indian paramilitary police stepped up patrols around the city after three blasts ripped through Jammu's Maulana Azad Stadium Thursday, killing six security men and two government The pro-Pakistan militant

group, Hizbullah, claimed responsibility for the blasts. which slightly injured the state governor as he addressed 15,000 people. Several senior state government officials were also injured Muslim Pakistan rules one

and has fought two of its three wars with India since independence from Britain in 1947 over control of the area. The seccessionist rebellion

in Kashmir, now in its fifth

year, has claimed more than

training, arming and guiding the militants, charges Islamabad denies. It says Pakistan gives only moral and diplomatic support to the mili-

"The government has to do something for the people and they have to acknowledge the basic problem for which the

mu was directed towards the authorities' failure to control events in the stadium, where many children were among the injured, crushed in a stampede to escape the stadium after the blasts.

The first blew up amplifiers and heavy batteries providing power for the event and spectators nearby.

his security guards was among those killed.

two minutes after the second.

# Peru, Ecuador clash over disputed gold area

LIMA (R) - Peru said Friday an Ecuadorean helicopter attacked one of its border posts, while Ecuador said soldiers from both sides had clashed near their disputed frontier over an area said to be rich in gold.

Ecuador said there were no casualties in the clash. "The United Command reports that the incident took place inside our territory. There have not been reports of casualties on Ecuador's army from the clash," Ecuador's armed forces said in a press

release in Quito. Peru's National Defence Council, presided over by President Alberto Fujimori, was meeting to review the situation, a Lima Foreign Ministry statement said. One Ecuadorean govern-

ment official said Quito had so far been unsuccessful in its diplomatic efforts to resolve the border dispute that was worsening already strained relations between the Andean nations. 'The public can rest

assured that we are ready to defend our territory," said the official, who requested At the heart of the con-

troversy is a disputed 130 square mile (340 sq. km) jungle patch said to be rich in Ecuador said patrols of both armies had clashed in-

side Ecuadorean territory on Thursday afternoon. At the same time, Peruvian Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg denied Ecuadorean accusations that Peruvian military helicopters had violated Ecuadorean airs-

"The Peruvian Armed Forces are carrying out patrois and supply missions in Peruvian territory within the limits established by the (1942) Protocol of Rio De

Peru's Defence Minister Victor Malca said all the activity of Peruvian helicopters was within Peruvian territory. "You can't call it an incursion when we are within our national territory," Mr. Mal-

ca told reporters. But in Quito, the Ecuadorean president's office said in a statement that a Peruvian patrol was located at the mouth of Cenepa River. which flows from Peru into Ecuador, and gunfire was ex-

changed. Ecuador and Peru have boosted their troop presence along the border at tensions have mounted in the border area over the last few weeks, Ecuadorean officials said.

In the border city of Tumbes, some 600 miles (1,000 km) north of Lima. heavy vehicles were being employed to transport Peruvian troops to the border area, according to reports. Ecuador had warned Lima

that a fresh violation could have "grave" consequences. An Ecuadorean army officer in the region told a local radio station that if other aircraft were spotted flying over Ecuadorean territory, troops "have been ordered to

Troops of both nations were put on a higher state of alert after two incidents this month, including an exchange of gunfire, prompted by each nation's claim to the jungle patch of gold.

Al Quito International Airport, which also serves as an armed forces air base, eyewitnesses saw soldiers this week boarding military planes for unknown loca-In 1941, Peru invaded

Ecuador and seized some of

redrawn borders.

BÉLJING (R) — Beijing cannot allow the International mittee of the Red Cross (ICRC) unsupervised sent," the official said. China," he said.

political prisoners or war criminals as defined by the United Nations, he said.

Oichen raised hopes of a new openness in China's secretive prison system in late 1993 by announcing that Beijing had agreed in principle to ICRC have met three times since

charge of prison affairs in the Justice Ministry, who met tion his name not be used, said China could not accept the group's unbending standards for such visits. "The ICRC has proposed

interviews using its own interpreters but without personnel from the Chinese side pre-This is hardly feasible for

The official described Chinese prison conditions as

generally good, but said 10 to

20 warders were punished each year for torturing or otherwise abusing prisoners.

A prison law which took effect in December should strengthen the protection of prisoners' rights, he said, even at the Public Security Ministry's notorious Qincheng Prison outside Beijing -- the only prison not run by

the Justice Ministry. The official said he could not explain the special status of Qincheng, a prison that has housed disgraced senior leaders as well as prodemocracy activists.

The official said the ICRC

turned down a July offer to visit convicted "counterrevolutionaries" at Beijing No. 2 Prison, described by former inmates, as well as diplomats and reporters who have seen it, as an unrepresentative "model" prison. China asked ICRC to submit new proposals but had

'yet to receive a response." The official said China's differences with the ICRC were a matter of principle and national sovereignty, although he was unwilling to say whether Beijing's posi-

tion would change. He said China's 2,679 jailed 'counterrevolutionaries," many imprisoned for anti-government agitation during the ill-fated 1989 Transmen Square protests, were not political prisoners because all had committed subervise actions.

to subvert the government but who does not act on that motive cannot be convicted of counter-revolution, so the term 'political prisoner' is not accurate," the official said. He said he could not accept that anyone could have been convicted for minor acts of protest such as playing a

"The truth of these cases is not so simple as just playing a guitar and then getting thrown in prison," he said, describing China's courts as 'serious and prudent."

If the courts were cavalier the numbers and percentage of jailed counterrevolutionaries would be higher, he said, noting that only 0.2 per cent of China's 1.285 million prisoners were serving time for counterrevolution.

#### its territory. That led to the Rio De Janeiro Treaty in 1942 which essentially let Peru keep the territory under to visit any political prisoner in China and conduct private

tiating with Hanoi on behalf of companies - mostly big oil firms - whose Saigon offices were seized in 1975. Sources close to the talks said earlier that progress had been made on the commercial property claims, worth about \$230 million, and blocked financial assets which include \$350 million in Saigon government money held in U.S. banks. There has been no news of an agreement on these complex issues, and details of the accords to be signed Saturday

were not released.

The diplomatic property

deal is expected to cover

Vietnam's takeover of the old

South Vietnam embassy in

acceptable option of only the choice between acting alone or doing nothing when emergencies occur," said

> police and hospital officials. India accuses Pakistan of

"Unless the government looks into its own affairs, such things will continue to happen," said Abdul Rahman, a Muslim taxi driver.

people of Kashmir have been fighting," he said. Much of the anger in Jam-

The bombs were planted in the ground in the stadium:

sprayed battery acid over The second went off four minutes later near the podium where Governor winding up his speech. He was hurt in the leg and one of

A third bomb exploded in another part of the stadium

> names pending notification of their families. The gunman worked his way up the street to the post office building across the street from the university.

Organe County District Attorney Carl Fox said the man fired 10 to 15 rounds from a semiautomatic M-1. including several into the back of the post office building, which also contains his offices and a courtroom. Authorities offered no mo-

"What happened up there is not something that any reasonable person could understand," Police Chief Ralph Pendergraph said.

Wendell Williamson, 26, a

third-year law student, was charged with two counts of murder, police said. China rejects unfettered ICRC prison visits

visits with any of China's 1,285,000 prisoners, a senior prison official said on Friday. China also had told the ICRC it is not obliged to allow outside scrutiny of 2.679 "counter-revolutionaries" in its 690 prisons because they are not

Foreign Minister Qian inspections. The two sides

But a leading official in Western reporters on condi-

He said one Chinese fear was that without chaperones the Red Cross interpreters might not understand prisoners from Tibet, Xinjiang or southern border areas where standard Chinese is not

The ICRC says it accepts nothing short of unfettered. unaccompanied visits with any prisoner in any prison at any time to ensure that interviews are candid, open and unrehearsed.

"Someone with the motive

guitar, singing or reciting a poem as human rights activists allege.

The official nevertheless disclosed that in Tibet, where China has battled an independence movement for four decades, about 200 "counterrevolutionaries" were among more than 1,000 prisoners.

# BELING (R) Inner Mongolia baye local abducted from across Company and sold to local peace withes, she People's Date; anderway across Company runup to next week's la iry's biggest, the people's aid beautiful artiller new spaper said beautiful By Vanora **Chechens** to escape ity's biggest, the officer Mongolia broke of the mongolia broke independent province the mongolia broke independent of the mongolia broke of the mongolia

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rescue 500 sold women

> By Vanora Bennett Reuter GROZNY, Russia - The

first Russian artillery shell of the thunderous volley landed five floors up, in the scruffy apartment block behind which my car was parked. The women who had been

aged 16 to 24 and was:

The officers to except for the contract of the contrac nice officers to exon to anome to Sichuan prome to Sichuan prome the south, it said, that he crackdown reported to listening to the sounds of fighting from across a courtyard in southwestern Grozny Acceptance in Spanish proving the north police said dropped to the ground. Walls trembled.

In slow motion, the top floor of the apartment block n amen in just three day.)
returned them to their be slid down towards the car. Glass and cement fragments shattered on its roof as we pulled away, back to the only way out of Grozny, the exposed main road along Cher-

norechive Dam. Fountains of red sparks rose from the road as five mortar bombs exploded just behind us in quick succession.

An old man who had been walking along the road and slipped on the treacherous ice lay with his spilled water buckets beside him, gesturing

imploringly to the heavens. Over the dam, closer to the embattled city centre, Russian snipers have been shooting at Chechen civilians for days. Visibility was good from observation points across the frozen water on a

clear, fog-free morning.
"They're hunting us," muttered Misha Yedniyev, my Chechen driver, as one bomb went off in front of us, then another. "Get out of the car

here, quick."

sanatorium, a long white building with two pink pillars as a gateway, and flattened ourselves behind the flimsy

We jumped out at the



for boiling water speaks to a Russian soldier break of the wall in Grozny (AFP photo) shelter of a roadside but. safety.

An explosion just four metres in front of Misha's beloved white Niva, a respectable middle-class car in the former Soviet Union. cracked the windscreen and buckled the doors.

Another car, an old ochre Zhiguli (Lada) with one frightened middle-aged man inside, stopped just in front and he ran to shelter with us. All the glass shattered, and his doors blew off. More explosions followed, more

flying concrete and glass. "They're shooting straight at the sanatorium," Misha screamed through the din. Trees in the forest ahead splintered and snapped. Our breath came fast, steaming in

the freezing air. We ching to each other as a huge explosion went off in front of the hut, Misha exposing his back to the blast although he had refused to wear a flak jacket like the

one I wore. Fifteen minutes went by before there was a lull. We ran back to the car and drove into the safety of the woods. "It's a miracle we're alive," Misha said as we reached the traffic police

checkpoint on the outskirts of

Others were less lucky. On the road, we passed one group of fighters dragging a

It was the home of Andrei. 13, and Alyona, 12, a boy-girl Cars which emerged from

the forest over the next four hours had shattered windscreens, broken lights and crumpled chassis.

Most escapees came on foot, cautiously, through the woods, ready to walk the 10 kilometres to the nearest town of Urus-Martan but unsure of the reception they would get in the pro-Russian opposition

stronghold.
All around, from Chernorechiye back to the city centre, the air was full of whistling mortar bombs. sharper artillery fire and the thunder of Grad missiles. Aeroplanes swooped overhead. Helicopters circled above the thin cloud cover.

Russia sent troops into the southern region of Chechenya on Dec. 11 to crish a three-year independence bid or, in the words of Moscow, to remove "illegal armed gangs" and restore hu-

man rights.
But Chernorechiye has no military positions, although Chechen fighters have strolled back there for a rest, a smoke and a chat after fighting Russian forces in the city

The district's street market was until Thursday the last in Grozny, although food was running out and prices more than doubled overnight by Wednesday.

team of Russian neighbours dragging a tiny sledge behind them, pestering journalists to tell them about life outside

It was the home of a wheedling beggar woman in a black coat who approached foreign journalists every day to plead for alms, only to be chased away by indignant housewives insisting she never lacked for hospitality from Chechen homes.

It was the home of Vakha. a gold-toothed ex-convict and arms dealer, tormented since his release from jail, just before the Russians came, by the twin facts of having a huge arsenal of weapons hidden nearby and not knowing

who to fight for. If these people and their neighbours are still there now, they will be hiding in the dark, cold cellars of their shattered homes. Otherwise, they are among the corpses littering the empty courtyards, shrouded in shards of

'This isn't war, it's a butchery," said Umar, standing at the edge of town watching a truck tow away a broken-down coachload of new refugees. "We're ordinary civilian people, and the Russian troops are crushing us underfoot like cock-

broken glass.

# woman with a bleeding leg to Norway seeks Russian explanation of missile saga

MOSCOW (R) - Norway sought an explanation from Russia Friday for a bizarre incident in which President Boris Yeltsin said he used his. hot line to consult his generals over the launch of an Norwegian research missile." Norwegian Ambassador

Per Tresselt met a Russian Foreign Ministry official to discuss the remarks, which are puzzling the West because Oslo gave Russia con-siderable advance notice of Wednesday's launch. News of the launch rattled

world currency markets and caused a defence alert in Russia even though the missile came down in the sea off Spitzbergen more than 1,000

kilometres from the Russian mainland. NATO member Norway

said it wanted to know why Russia allowed the incident to cause such confusion even though it was informed of the launch, part of a scientific programme, last month. The ambassador visited

the Foreign Ministry yesterday and they confirmed that the Russian embassy in Oslo received a note (informing about the launch) on Dec. 21 and sent it to the Foreign Ministry, which forwarded it to the relevant organs," Norwegian diplomat Dag Halvorsen told Reuters. "After Yeltsin's comments

we asked for a new meeting

in the Foreign Ministry to find out why this happened," An embassy spokesman-la-

ter confirmed Mr. Tresselt had Friday met Yuri Fokin, the newly appointed Russian ambassador to Norway who has not yet taken up his post in Oslo.

The spokesman said details the meeting would be released only after the Norwegian ambassador had briefed Oslo.

The missile incident, first reported by Russia's Interfax News Agency, appeared initially to be a misunderstanding between a journalist and

was mounting that Mr. Yeltsin had deliberateley dramatised the incident to portray his armed forces in a good light following the sharp criticism of the Russian military campaign to bring rebel Chechenya to heel. Mr. Yeltsin Thursday sho-

But by Friday, speculation

wered praise on the armed forces for detecting the missile quickly and charting its ogress accurately perore it fell to earth. \_\_\_ He suggested the West

may have been testing Rus-

sia's defence capabilities and meet every two years to resaid he used the hot line view economic, political, sowhich goes everywhere with cial and cultural cooperation. him in a black suitcase to Mr. Mandela, who first viconsult his army chiefs. sited India in 1990 just months after his release from prison, said though there were no talks on tie-ups in the defense sector, "the

# U.K. prince's aide arrested in blackmail case

Michael of Kent bas been arrested by police investigating a suspected attempt to blackmail a member of the exiled Libyan royal family,

said Friday's Telegraph.
John Kennedy, 29, head of
the prince's household at Kensington Palace and a former Conservative parliamentary candidate has been released without charge on police bail pending further enquiries, said the paper.

He was arrested with a second man — a businessman named Anthony Bailey - in connection with an alleged plot to extort money from a Libyan prince, who lives in

LONDON (AFP) — The private secretary to Prince informed before the arrests were made, added the Telegraph.

Scotland Yard would not disclose the name of the intended victim of the alleged blackmail attempt or its na-

But it issued a statement saying: "We can confirm that two men were arrested in connection with an alleged criminal offence and inquiries continue. The men were bailed to return to a police station at a later date."

A report on the case has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service, and possible charges were reported to be still being considered. A statement issued from Kensington Palace said that allegations made against Mr. Kennedy had been "strongly denied" and would be "vigorously contested" at the earliest opportunity.

"The question of Mr. Kennedy's resignation as Private Secretary will not be discussed nor will it be sought or offered. "Mr. Kennedy enjoys the

full and continuing support of His Royal Highness and will continue to execute his duties as private secretary until such time as this matter is resolved," it added.

Mr. Bailey, who described himself as a senior public relations executive and an adviser to Crown Prince Muhammad Al Senussi of Libya, issued a statement to Press Association News confirming he had attended a police interview.

"I cannot go into the matters under investigation for the reason that they are under investigation," he said. But he added: "I take this

opportunity publicly to refute Republic Day parade here Thursday. any suggestion that there has "My trip has been very successful," he said of the been any wrong doing on my part and I am totally satisfied visit, which also saw the signthat this will be found to be ing of accords on state-tothe case." Mr. Kennedy is under-stood to be related to the state cooperation and diplomatic contacts and paved

Yugoslav royal family, and as a public relations consultant. he has assisted Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic,

# Simpson prosecutors cry foul over defence tactics Wednesday, effectively countering much of the mur-

moved to English becomes

whitanthops

agrated first LOS ANGELES (R) — Pro-secutors, steamed at being Simpson outfoxed by one of America's most skilled defence lawyers, have brought the O.J. Simpson murder trial to a halt at least until next week.

Lead defence lawyer Johnnie Cochran had not even finished his opening statement Thursday when furious prosecutors accused Simpson's defenders of ambushing them by making references to witnesses they did not know

Calling it "outrageous, dis-gusting and appalling" misconduct, the prosecution asked for a 30-day delay in the sensational trial to regroup and investigate the latest developments.

Judge Lance Ito said he would have his ruling by Monday and told both sides to be ready to resume the double murder trial then if he

"Counsel has deliberately done an end run around (evaded) attorney discovery law," Prosecutor Marcia Clark told the judge. "It's a trial by ambush. That's the

Je om samme

Simpson's lawyers have admitted they failed to make timely disclosure of its witness list, called "discovery" in legal parlance, by giving it to prosecutors, just before its opening statement started.

Simpson, a former American football star, turned actor and TV personality, denies murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. He has been in jail for seven months and his lawyers have been complaining about the slow pace of the trial.

Prosecutor Christopher Darden insisted the defence move was an intentional tactic worthy of sanctions and made fun of Simpson's lawyers, who are consucred among the best in the country and have earned the nickname of the "dream team."

"It's their fault that (it's) no longer a level playing field," he said. "We may just be civil servants ... but we intend to win this case." When Mr. Cochran deli-

vered his stunning opening

ball legend's high-priced band of celebrity lawyers had caught opposing proseuctors off-guard. "Guilty one day, innocent

the next," remarked one courtroom observer on just how Mr. Cochran had turned the case around in a single day of talking despite more than a dozen objections by Prosecutor William Hodgman, who suffered chest pains Wednesday night and was taken to hospital.

Defence lawyer Carl Douglas, who is responsible for ensuring that the prosecution receives defence documents, apologised.

He said some documents hurt the prosecution. "I will fall on my sword but

I object to the insinuation

that I am doing something

and witness names had not been turned over, but bristled at the suggestion that the omission was a deliberate ploy to

untoward. I have been chastised, and I accept that," he der case prosecutors had said. "There has not been carefully laid out the day any maliciousness ... It is a mistake " before, it appeared the foot-"The defence conceded

they engaged in discovery abuse and the only question is whether it was unintentional," said law Professor Peter Arenella. "One thing is clear, they gained a major tactical advantage." The prosecution has asked

Judge Ito to strike from the record any references Mr. Cochran made during opening statements to witnesses who were not disclosed, to admonish the jury that Mr. Cochran engaged in misconduct, to allow prosecutors to reopen the case and grant them a 30-day delay - most of which Judge Ito seemed reluctant to do.

Mr. Cochran said it was the prosecution that was attempting to gain tactical advantage in asking for a continuance.

"They were severely wounded in opening statements and they need time to regroup," he said.

# **U.N.:** Fighting continues in Bihac

SARAJEVO (R) — Fighting continued overnight near Velika Kladusa in the north of the Bosnian Bihac enclave and some ground may have changed hands, the United Nations said Friday.

U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said that some 52 detonations were recorded between midnight and 4 a.m. Friday morning.

He said a total of 580 detonations were registered on Thursday, five times the daily average since the Bosnian Muslims, Croats and Serbs signed a New Year's Eve truce. Col. Coward said the shell-

ing appeared to be coming from rebel Muslims and Croatian Serbs from the Krajina region of Croatia, who may have pushed the government 5th Corps back since they started attacking eastwards about a week ago. Col. Coward said Thursday's fighting consisted of

Although U.N. movement was restricted in the Kladusa area, he said some ground had probably changed hands. Basically, we assess from the wave of fire that it's likely

Mandela:

Indian visit

could lead

trade bloc

NEW DELHI (AFP) - South African President Nel-

son Mandela wrapped up a

four-day visit to India Friday

declaring the trip a great suc-cess that could shape an

Indian Ocean trading

international terrorism in all

its ramifications and combat

drug trafficking," the South

African leader said of a treaty

Narasimha Rao have agreed

India and South Africa ex-

changed a draft on curbing

terrorism, religious fun-

damentalism and narcotics

smuggling. An accord was

also signed settings up an

Indo-South African joint

commission which would

doors were open for col-

"The warmth I and my

delegation received here

gives us strength and confi-

the way for agreements on

tourism and science and tech-

dence in our ties with India,'

laboration" in the field.

he and Prime Minister P.V.

to sign at a later date,

to new

alliance.

'company-level probing

attacks in an easterly direc-

the confrontation line will have moved but how much

we can't say," Col. Coward He did not say who gained

territory. Rebel Muslims led by local tycoon Fikret Abdic and the Krajina Serbs are not signatories to a four-month cessation of hostilities agreement which went into effect this month, halting most of the

fighting elsewhere in Bosnia. Serious ceasefire violations were reported in Sarajevo Thursday night. Government-controlled

Sarajevo Radio reported

four, possibly five, rifle-

propelled grenades fired in the area of the Jewish Cemetery late in the evening. Col. Coward could not confirm a Sarajevo Radio report that the Bosnian Serbs besieging the city were to

blame for the attack. Meanwhile General Rupert Smith, on his second day as U.N. commander for Bosnia, met Friday with Bosnian Serb leaders in their stronghold at Pale, east of Sarajevo, the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) reported.

The agency also said a planned meeting of Serb authorities and Western experts trying to revive Bosnia peace negotiations had been cancel-

"The reasons for the can-

cellation of Friday's meeting were not officially disclosed, SRNA said in a dispatch monitored here.

Officials from the group, representing Britain, France. Germany, Russia and the United States, have been in Bosnia since last weekend and have met twice with the government in Sarajevo and once with Serb leaders in Pale.

But the team has so far failed to win backing from the Serbs for a plan that would allot them 49 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina and a Muslim-Croat federation the

The Muslim-led Bosnian government has accepted the proposal and is insisting that peace negotitaions cannot resume until the Serbs endorse its broad outlines as well.

Gen. Smith, who Thursday naid a call on Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, met in Pale with Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and speaker of parliament in the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic, Momeilo Krajis-

The U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali hailed the courage of Sarajevans and recent "positive developments" in the peace process in a message Friday to residents of the Bosnian capital on its 1,000th day under Serb

In the message released in Geneva, Dr. Ghali expressed his "very deep admiration for the brave men and women who demonstrate on a daily basis the strength of the human spirit to survive and carry on.

He had witnessed at first hand, he said, "the suffering and the courage" of Sarajevo's population and reasserted his commitment to bring about a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

The U.N. Protection Force. U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and other agencies had helped save thousands of lives in Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said.

"In 1994 alone, 122,000 metric tonnes of food were delivered to Sarajevo by road and air under very adverse circumstances. Some 440,000 displaced and afflicted persons have benefitted from such assistance." Dr. Ghali

He also paid tricute to the 70 men and women of UN-PROFOR who had "given their lives" to help rebuild the shattered city and restore some normalcy to the lives of its people.

# North snubs inter-Korean talks

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea Friday angrily rejected a South Korean proposal for new government-level talks. lashing the suggestion as a "crime" against hopes of reunifying the Korean peninsula. The rejection came

through the ruling Workers' Party newspaper, Rodong Shinmun, which said: "The South has taken an attitude which amounts to an antiunification and anti-national It accused Seoul of seeking

Mr. Mandela told a press to block the South Korean conference that a new range public from having contacts of areas for bilateral cooperaand dialogue with the North tion had been identified durby rejecting an initial offer ing his talks with Indian leadfrom Pyongyang to hold a national conference to dis-"We also agreed to fight cuss reunficiation.

"As far as dialogue and unification issues are concerned, the South Korean authorities are no different from former military dictators," it said, adding: "We strongly warn them against acting recklessly."

North Korea Tuesday hold the unification conference, including representatives of civilian groups, and launch joint celebrations in August to mark the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule. The South then put for-

suggesting that the two sides resume government-togovernment talks to discuss pending issues, including the joint celebration. The South turned down the

ward a countrer-proposal,

North's proposed agenda on unification as a hackneyed propaganda ploy for a united front — a classic tactic, under which Communists go into a marriage of convenience with centrists and moderates and then crush them and establish a dictatorship of the proletar-

On Thursday, Rodong Sin-

mun repeated Pyongyang's demand that the South repeal its anti-Communist National Security Law, describing it 58 an "obstacle" hampering celebration of the 50th anniversary and the unification conference. North Korea has been

under pressure to resume inter-Korean talks, a promise it made when it struck a landmark deal with the United States in October last year in Geneva to neutralise proposed that the two sides the North's suspected nuclear programme. Meanwhile, the U.S.

> Thursday that North Korea's military power is eroding rapidly. But a million-man North

general in the region told

lawmakers in Washington

Korean army is still capable of launching a devastating war that could claim 100,000 American lives, Gen. Gary E. Luck told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A deteriorating economy and the loss of military sponsorship from Beijing and Moscow have left the North Korean military unable to replace old weapons and limited its ability to maintain its inventory of ships and planes.

"They have no way to replace that gear," Gen. Luck said. "Over time they've got problems." As the commander of the

37 WO U.S. forces in Korea and the general who would lead both American and South Korean forces in war. Gen. Luck is privy to all the intelligence data the two allies can muster on North

On paper, the military threat from North Korea has increased over the past decade. Gen. Luck showed the committee charts indicating that the North Korean army grew from 720,000 to 950,000 during that time and that the portion of the army deployed menacingly near the South Korean border increased from 45 per cent to 65 per cent.

# Top Gambian junta members arrested

BANJUL (AFP) - Gambia's Vice-President Lieutenant Sana Sabally and Interior Minister Sadibou Heydara were arrested Friday in the capital Banjul, an

the president's office said. The two were accused of said the 76-year-old South African leader, who was the guest of honour at India's

> Lt. Sabally was detained in his office at the same time as his bodyguards and the minister, the source said. Several soldiers were also reportedly arrested at the two main military bases here, but reporters said the city was generally calm.

nology. Mr. Mandela also invited Indian businesses to tap postapartheid business prospects in South Africa to make up for opportunities lost during his country's apartheid isolaimousines sweep through

He said growing business ties between South Africa and India could help shape a trading bloc among Indian Ocean rim nations comprising the two countries and Australia, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman and Singapore.

"There are trading blocs in various part of the world and (it) should not alarm anybody if we establish one which will be in neutral interest for those wanting to join it," Mr. Mandela said. "South Africa has got a

solid infrastructure and therefore could play an important role in such a regional trading bloc," he added. Indian officials said there

were no talks between Mr. Mandela and Mr. Rao on the proposed multilateral trading alliance, but the issue would be pursued after officials from the seven nations meet in Mauritius in March. not easy. We hope to move The Mauritius meeting will on," Mr. Tang said.

discuss ways to remove infrastructural and other impediments to the proposed seven-nation multilateral trading alliance.

authoritative source close to

plotting to overthrow Gambian head of state Lieutenant Yayah Jammeh, with whom they seized power in a coup on July 22 last year.

No official confirmation of the arrests could be obtained by mid-afternoon, but witnesses said they saw several Presidential Guard

responsibility is not with us."

Shubei told reportes they agreed on repatriating hijackers and illegal immigrants but remained divided over fishing disputes. Further talks would be

held with Taiwan counterpart

Chiao Jen-Ho at a time and place to be decided, he said. "These talks achieved important progress. Theydid not break down or were a failure. We made a lot of progress and this progress is

"We are prepared to sign agreements (on illegal immigrants and hijackers) but we the issue of fishing disputes improvement in trade did not sign," he said. "The Friday morning and were other non-official ties.

Banjul at speed in the early

morning. Less than three months ago, Lt. Sabally himself stated that the five-man military junta had foiled an attempt to topple it at the cost of several lives, in a first sign of divisions in the small

Lt. Sabally told state radio several soldiers were killed in the Nov. 11 coup bid, led by high-ranking army officers, and said the ruling armed forces Provisional Council remained in control.

west African nation's army.

The November announcement followed heavy gunfire heard throughout the night from the barracks in the Bakau residential district, 14 kilometres from the centre of Baniul.

Lt. Jammeh, 29, and three other officers all aged under 30 seized power on July 22 in a bloodless coup that toppled elected President Sir Dawda' power since before full independence from Britain in

Last month, Lt. Jammeh announced the military would stay in power until free elections are organised in December 1998 to restore civilian rule. He justified the decision by saying his regime would fight corruption and improve the living standards of the country's poor major-

But his promises failed to prevent Japan, the United States and the European Union turning off the aid tap following the coup, leading Lt. Jammeh swiftly to set up a consultative body to pave the way for a rapid return to civilian rule.

Since seizing power, the junta has shown signs of wavering in arresting and then freeing former ministers from the Jawara government

# Taiwan-China talks end with partial accord

Jawara, 70, who had been in

BEIJING (R) — Festering Mr. Tang and Mr. Chiao disagreement over how to met Friday morning, after which Mr. Chiao returned to settle fishing disputes dashed hopes of a breakthrough deal his hotel to consult with his between arch-rivals China and Taiwan Friday and they superiors in Taipei. Mr. Tang settled for a partial agreeand Mr. Chiao spoke again by telephone in the afternoon ment but no signed pact. but decided not to prolong Chinese negotiator Tang the current talks. Mr. Chiao, secretary-.

general of Taiwan's semiofficial Straits Exchange Foundation which oversees the Nationalist-ruled island's growing contacts with Communist China, a planned to travel Friday to Shanghai.

"We agreed to step up and enhance economic, technological and cultural exchanges," said Mr. Tang, secretary general of Beijing's quasi-official Association for Relations Across the Taiwan

Straits. Mr. Chiao told reporters the two sides had discussed the issue of fishing disputes studying several alternative prosposals. He gave no de-

on three occasions.

"If fishing disputes arise in the Taiwan Straits, the Taiwan side wants a clause in the agreement so that the side closest to the dispute should send patrol boats to settle them," Mr. Chiao said Thursday.

Taiwan wants the fishing clause to show an imaginary demarcation line through the Taiwan Straits, diplomats

China has baulked at this. saying it should handle all fishing disputes, since it says all waters round Taiwan are part of its own territorial

waters.

The high-level talks are the third betrween Mr. Chiao and Mr. Tang. They are part of a political, detente brokered in April 1993 after nearly a decade of steady improvement in trade and

Americans LOS ANGELES (RIC)

Graces sur Simpson trial

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By Dr. Musa Keilani

# **Jordan Times**

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# A step in the right direction

AFTER A troubled period of uneasy relations—though for no fault of Jordan's—the Kingdom and the Palestinian leadership have signed a number of agreements that are aimed at institutionalising the various aspects of relations between the two peoples. This is a positive step whose significance no one should ignore. However, it remains a first step that only through honest and committed implementation could it serve the overall causes of the two brethren peoples.

The signing of the agreements came after a long delay mainly on behalf of the Palestinian leadership. Jordan has always confessed the inseparability of Jordanian-Palestinian interests. It also believed these interests should be coordinated within an institutionalised framework that can guarantee the durability of any joint effort to promote those interests. Hence was Jordan's insistence on reaching agreements that would leave no room for ambiguity in regulating its ties with its brethern across the river.

That the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership has took so long to sign agreements already reached early last year only delayed the initiation of joint work to further the interests of the sides. Now that the Jordanians and Palestinians can boost eight accords that cover most areas of cooperation between them, the two peoples can expect a steady process for the improvement of their relations — assuming that goodwill will always prevail to ensure the implementation of these accords.

It is a foregone conclusion that better Jordanian-Palestinian ties would be a trump card that would help both two sides in their negotiations with Israel. Such a card the Palestinians need more in light of the troubles their talks with the Jewish state are facing. By maintaining good ties with Jordan, the Palestinian leadership can tap the unwavering support that the Kingdom has always extended to the Palestinian people. The Palestinians can always call on Jordan, a state with developed institutions and experience in state building, for all sorts of help in erecting the institutions of the self-rule Palestinian areas as well as in carrying out their negotiations with Israel.

Jordan has always stood by the Palestinian people — politically and economically — even when official ties with the PLO were at a low ebb. That it did because it saw in maintaining good relations with the Palestinians a strategic interest not only for the two sides but also for the whole Arab Nation. Strong ties with the Palestinians have been for the Kingdom a priority above the political requirements, and differences, of given eras and temporary circumstances. Such support will be more productive now that the relations between the two sides have been regulated and put in an institutionalised framework. For the benefit of the two people, these agreements should be respected, implemented and expanded upon.

# **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

IT IS clear from the government's policy statement, delivered by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to Parliament Wednesday, that due attention will be given to domestic affairs in the present stage in accordance with the directives contained in His Majesty the King's letter to the government, said Al Ra'i daily. The statement clearly displayed the government's intention to pursue the process of reform, the deepening of the democratic process and opening of channels of dialogue with political parties and professional organisations and various public sectors. In fact, close cooperation with the legislative authority to achieve this goal is of paramount necessity, added the paper. The government's determination to bolster the security services and the armed forces reflects its intention of ensuring stability the country's development, said the daily. The paper called on the government to give due concern to the problems of poverty and unemployment and to exert efforts towards guaranteeing social security and introducing a comprehensive health system for the public. The paper lauded the government for its declared intention to mend fences with Arab countries and pursue efforts towards ensuring a comprehensive peace in the region.

SALEH Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the agreements signed by the Jordanians and the Palestinians are of paramount importance for regulating bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, social and political fields. But, he said, what is more important is the implementation of these agreements with good intentions and in brotherly and cordial spirit. For Jordanians and Palestinians, the signing of the agreements is a source of pride as the development marks one more milestone in the drive towards cementing bilateral relations as demanded by the masses on the two sides of the Jordan River. There is no doubt that the recent developments in the region have made it incumbent on the two sides to embark on serious measures to ensure strong relationship and serve their national goals, he said. The agreements, signed in Amman, he said, will surely secure the attainment of this objective.

Jordanian Perspective

# Jordanian-PLO accords key accomplishment for both sides

IT TOOK Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) more than one year to ultimately finalise an agreement on broad cooperation, including economic links between the two banks of the River Jordan. The documents that were signed in Amman on Thursday signify a key accomplishment for both sides in terms of material cooperation.

By all counts, the provisions in the economic agreement largely address the basic concerns of the two sides although perhaps not to the perfect satisfaction of either: It may not be a worthy exercise to debate the technical aspects of the agreement, but it is clear that it has built-in safeguards for the interests of both sides. Take for instance the continued circulation of the Jordanian dinar in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the currency for all dealings of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and one of the currencies in use in the territories along with others, with the provision that neither side would undertake any measure that might undermine the currency of the other (after the issuance of a

new Palestinian currency as the PNA is boping for).

The continued use of the Jordanian curricula in schools in the West Bank and Gaza as provided for in the agreement on cooperation in education is also another cornerstone that consolidates the relations between the two banks, along with the other protocols on transport, communication, culture and information as well as administrative issues.

As far as we are concerned in Jordan, we are aware that the Palestinian signatories to the agreements do not yet enjoy the status of elected representatives of the Palestinian people, but we are willing to respect their signatures in good faith and hope that they would live up to the commitments they made in the accords. In any event, the documents have to pass through the constitutional process in Jordan by securing the approval of the Council of Ministers first and then Parliament before His Majesty King Hussein issues a royal decree endorsing them. We would have liked to see the Palestinian side going through a similar process, fully legalising the agreements, but, given the realities on the ground in the West Bank and Gaza today, we will have to be contend with the present

It is no secret that the signing of the agreements came as the result of a belated realisation on the part of the Palestinian leadership that Jordan offers perhaps the strongest safety valves at a time when pressure from all quarters is mounting on Mr. Arafat and his colleagues in the PNA cabinet. It is not simply a question of the PLO leadership needing Jordan now than ever, but it is a reality that Jordan was always there to support the Palestinian people and that the PLO leadership has perhaps come to realise and genuinely appreciate the Kingdom's position now. Hopefully, for the sake of both sides, it is the case.

now. Hopefully, for the sake of both sides, it is the case.

As we understood so far, the Palestinian side found that

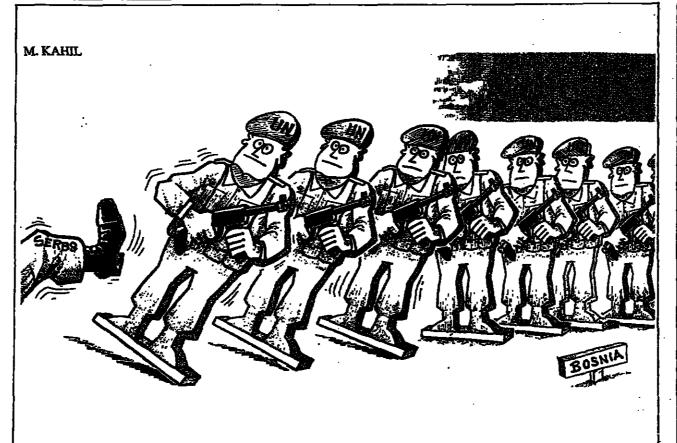
Jerusalem remained "hanging" in the air as Mr. Arafat wound up his talks here with His Majesty King Hussein. But that is not the way we read the situation.

By sixtne of his signing the "memorandum of under-

By virtue of his signing the "memorandum of understanding and cooperation" with Jordan on Thursday. Mr. Arafat has accepted the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty "as an important step ... and cornerstone towards" achieving Arab rights. Now, it would mean, for all technical purposes, a Palestinian acceptance of the provisions of the treaty, which recognises Jordan's "special" role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem. Obviously, in return for that acceptance, Jordan reaffirmed its continue support for the Palestinian struggle for independence and pledged all backing for the Palestinian quest to set up an independent state with. Jerusalem as its capital. As such, we find little room for the arguments that we hear from some Palestinian quarters that the Jordanian-Palestinian controversy over Jerusalem had not been solved; unless of course Mr. Arafat was holding out for a major Jordanian concession in some

other area that we are not privy to yet.

As far as we in Jordan are concerned, we mean it when we say that Jordan would relinquish its role in Jerusalem once the Palestinians gain sovereignty over the Holy City. For our own sake and the sake of the Islamic faith, we cannot agree to leave a vacuum in Jerusalem that would benefit no one but Israel at this point in time. That is our bottom line and we stick by that.



# Agreement between Jordan, Palestinians a step towards integration

THE WEEK IN PRINT

By Elia Nasrallah

AL RA'I daily described the agreement signed by the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships as steps towards integration and unity between Jordan and Palestine, setting a unique example for other Arab states to follow. The paper expressed hope that the accords will pave the way for the two sides to work together towards ending Israel's occupation and regaining usurped Arab rights in

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the accords give Jordan and Palestine freedom of movement independently from Israel's hegemony. Jordan's announcement that it will open a representation office in Gaza was a clear sign that the Jordanian leaderships will remain committed to helping the Palestinians in their drive to establish their rule and achieve independence for the Palestine state, said Mohammad Kawash. The writer said the Arab countries ought to follow Jordan's footsteps and offer the Palestinians all the help they need at this stage.

Ali Safadi, a columnist in Al Dustour, expressed optimism that 1995 will be the year of reconciliation among Arab states, noting that the year started with Egyptian-Jordanian and Jordanian-Palestinian sum-

Both summits led to improved and stronger relations between the Arab states neighbouring Israel, said the writer. On the other fronts, Jordan and Oman held summit meetings and the Yemeni and the Qatari leaderships are preparing further meetings aimed at bolstering inter-Arab ties, he added. The Arab states are called on to use a common political language and embark on collective efforts in the face of the present stage and vis-avis Israel's policies, said the

writer.

Apart from closing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the wake of the suicide bombing near Tel Aviv, Israel has accused Syria and Iran of being behind the violence. said

Ahmad Misleh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that Israel has comtions, alleging that the acts of violence are perpetrated abroad but ignoring the fact that its occupation of Arab land was the cause of the whole issue. The writer said that Israel wants to divert world public attention from the real problem of occupation and at the same time pursue its expansionist programmes and perpetuate its colonisation of the Arab lands.

Israel's decision to separate the Palestinians from the Israelis means demarcating the borders of the future Palestine state, said Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i. Sooner or later, the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will come to the conclusion that the best and most guaranteed security for Israel lies in giving the Palestinians their full rights within their own state, said the writer. The Palesti-

nians, said the writer, can

only be appeased when they

regain their rights. The 19 Israelis killed in

the suicide bombing were

the victims of the continued

occupation of Arab territor-

ies, according to a writer in

Al Ra'i. Under an atoms-

phere of injustice and con-

tinued occupation, acts of

violence are bound to

spread and Israel's oppression and intent on killing

Arabs can only draw furth-

er violence, which is harm-

ful to the cause of peace,

said Mahmoud Rimawi.

With more victims falling as

a result of violence and

counter violence, deeper

feelings of hatred are bound

to take root and just peace

in the face of Israel's

adamant position with re-

gard to the implementation

of the Oslo agreements,

which call for redeployment

of Israeli forces and local

Palestinian elections, the

Palestinian leadership

ought to raise this question

not only with the co-

would remain illusive.

sponsors of the peace process but at the international level as well, said Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The Palestinians should take a lesson from Israel's earlier negotiations with Egypt when the Israeli leaders dragged their feet and showed unwillingness to withdraw their forces from Egyptian land, said the writer. He said that the Palestinians should hold strongly to their position or risk losing a great deal.

Issa Shueibi said in a column in Al Dustour that the Israeli decision to separate the Palestinians from the Israelis would bring about immense hardships not only for the Palestinians but also for the Israelis. The closure of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip means recognition of a Palestinian entity and this concept outweighs the hardships the Palestinians are expected to face from now on, said the writer. The Palestinians, who have offered many sacrifices for their freedom.

should consider the Israeli

step a blessing, albeit temporarily painful, under the

present circumstances, said

Fahed Al Fanek, a writer

in Al Ra'i, attacked Israeli

Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres for calling on the

Palestinians and the Jorda-

nians to forge a confederation. In his book, "The

New Middle East" Mr.

Peres tries to present the

situation in the region as

one that can be dealt with

through confederal be-

tween Jordan and Pales-

tine, with the Israelis keep-

ing control of the land and

allowing the Palestinians

only to deal economically

and socially with Jordan,

said the writer. The writer

said that Israel wants the

Palestinians and the Jorda-

nians to form a confedera-

tion in which the Palesti-

nians will be the majority,

implying that Jordan would

serve as a substitute Palesti-

Commenting on the gov-

ernment policy statement

nian state.

the writer.

a vote of confidence, Taher Adwan said that a successful government is one whose objectives are set clearly and one which carries out its promises to the people. A successful government can only win public support if its rule is conducted in participation with the people's representatives, he said. To be successful, the government must respond to demands of Parliament, which represents the people.

Mohammad Subeihi criti-

cised the traffic police for their frequent stopping of cars on the roads to check their licences, saying that frequent stopping of cars tends to cause congestions and confusion. The writer said in a column in Al Dustour that though the Traffic Department aims at ensuring safety for the road users, these measures can by no means achieve the desired goal. In civilised societies, a traffic police-man does not stop a car unless the driver is in violation of traffic rules. But in Jordan, traffic police stop cars several times in the same street only to examine the licences, noted the writer. At the same time, the traffic police seldom stop the mini-buses for speeding and endangering people's

lives, he added.

A writer in Sawt Al Shaab drew attention to the manipulation of prices by the wholesale merchants in Jordan, citing the prices of coffee an example. Nazih Qousus said that the merchants have failed to respond to public demands and refused to bring down coffee prices following their decline on world markets with the intention of making as much profit as possible.

The merchants' behaviour clearly indicates that they have clout and wield influence over the government's decision makers, especially, the Ministry of Supply. The writer said that the Jordanians are clearly witnessing a weak performance by the Ministry of Supply, which has always claimed that it aims at defending consumers' rights in the face of merchants' greed.

# When is a rampage not a rampage?

Robert Fisk is infuriated by the flaws in a life of Palestine's great female leader

Hanan Ashrawi: A Passion for Peace Fourth Estate

IT IS difficult to find words to describe this book. It is so irredeemably dreadful that one can hardly do anything but list its faults: its factual inaccuracies, its bias, its hopeless version of Middle East history. Victor claims she has written an "even-handed account" of the Palestinian uprising and the peace process, an assertion that strains credulity to

its limits. It is not just its intrinsic book so hard to take seriously, although that is as good a place as any to start. Throughout, Palestinians murder, stab and burn to death innocent Israelis while Baruch Goldstein, the Israeli settler who slaughtered 29 Palestinian is in Hebron last veal is held up as "an extreme example" of a settler who went on a "rampage." So when is a rampage not a rampage? When it is carried out by a Palestinian, of course, in which case it is a 'terrorist" act or an act of "terror," words which Victor uses 76 times in 275 pages - more than once every four pages and all but once about Palestinians. Israelis who kill Palestinians are occasionally 'death squads" but usually "soliders" and often "commandos." Israel's Phalangist militia allies who butchered hundreds of Palestinian civilians in Beirut in 1982 are respectfully referred to by Victor as "sol-

If the author cannot

avoid double standards,

however, what excuse is there for her shoddy grasp of facts? She says that the Lebanese civil war began in 1978 — when it began in 1975. She says that the Israeli army "withdrew" from Lebanon in 1982, when in fact it only began its withdrawal in 1983, kept 20,000 troops there in 1984 and still maintains a 2,000strong occupation force in the south of the country today. She claims the Baifour declaration was made in 1921 — it was published in November, 1917 — and wrongly states that the declaration "provided for two states, Israel and Palestine, to exist side by side." It did nothing of the kind. Balfour said that Britain "supported" (not "created" as Victor claims) a Jewish National Home in Palestine; the division of Palestine into two states was a U.N. decision, taken in 1947. Jewish "terrorism." Victor tells us - in the only reference of its kind to a Jewish group — "was never exported to foreign cities;" she is apparently unaware of the murder of Lord Moyne by Jewish assassins in Cairo in 1944.

The sloppiness does not end there. Incredibly, Victor describes the Lebanese Phalange (whose right-wing origins lay in the 1936 Ber-

lin Olympics) as a "centrist party." She mixes up the Libyan capital of Tripoli with the northern Lebanese troops into Lebauon in 1978 (Syrian forces arrived in Israeli troops only reached tion of Bashir Gemayel in September, 1982 (they had been besieging the city for three months) and goes on to claim that the TWA jet frijacked to Beirut in 1985 by Lebanese Shias was pifated by Palestinians. She names the head of the PFLP General Command as "Ahmad Jibal" (be is Ahmad Jibril) and believes that only two (rather than three) airliners were blown son's Field in 1970. How, one is left asking, did Hanan Ashrawi, the respected former spokeswoman for the PLO and now the most prominent human rights activist in the West Bank, ever get mixed up in this literary venture?

Not all the errors appear

to be the result of slipshod

homework. Describing the

cruel and savage murders of

two Israelis, Victor insists they were killed in Israel, even though she makes it perfectly clear that they lived (and were killed) on occupied Arab land - the first in Gaza, the second east of Jerusalem, neither of which are in Israel. The Palestinian people, she informs us, have "a history of violence," adding elsewhere that an older generation of conquered Palesti-nians felt "grateful for the chance to work in Israeli factories." What does all this mean? What does it mean when Victor describes the border between Israel and the West Bank as "imaginary" or when she reacts to an apparent attempt by an Israeli soldier to shoot Hanan Ashrawi as "something new to add to her list of credentials? Somewhere in all this is a book waiting to be written, a work which, just occasionally, can be glimpsed through the crust of cliches and bias. Victor does clearly understand the brutal nature of Israeli occupation and makes at least one pertinent remark on the Islamisation of Palestinian women in the occupied territories (she rightly notices that the intifada did not liberate Palestinian

The Independent

(Continued on page 7)

women). Hanan Ashrawi's

views are quoted at length

and her Arab critics rightly

given a voice, although Vic-

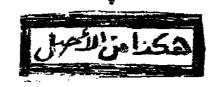
tor fails to realise the extent

to which Arafat betrayed

Ashrawi. On one rather

weird level, this book

appears to be intended to



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(Continued from page 1)

prevent "illegal" activities on

College authorities said 30 male students were arrested. nine of them from their homes in Abu Dis. The dormitory houses 150 students, but the college has an enrollment of 1500.

Since Sunday's attack. Israel has rounded up several dozen Palestinians in the West Bank.

Jewish settlers, in a defiant move against a government freeze on settlement expansion, began breaking ground Thursday for a new neighbourhood in the West Bank. Two buildozers plowed a dirt path in a barren hillside

south of the settlement of Kochav Yaakov in the West Bank and settlers planted pine saplings as a mark of ownership.

They plan to build 500 housing units on the hill, just

Soldiers left behind a leaf- north of Jerusalem's municiplet in Arabic, apparently to al boundaries, Israel Radio explain that the raid was to said. Israel's military government issued a work stoppage order to the settlers, army radio said.

> Khader Alem, head of the Land Defence Committee in the nearby town of Ramallah said they would protest the expansion, but said it would be difficult since the army bans gatherings of more than 10 people without a permit.
>
> "Of course, we will con-

front it, but we want to avoid bloody confrontation with the army," Mr. Alem said. The work came a day after Mr. Rabin's government approved more than 3,000 new homes in three West

Bank settlements surround-

ing Jerusalem. But settlers were angry that the approvals excluded most of the other 140 settlements in the West Bank, where over 140,000 Jewish settlers live among a million

# Accords could help strategy

(Continued from page 1)

Seen in this context, Palestinian officials and economists believe, the agreement came at a time to just stop the downward slide and minimise the damage as the protocols are expected to revive

In comparison to the previous three draft economic agreements — that were not signed because of reluctance on the part of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat - the new accord provides more parity for the Palestinian side but also more practical guarantees to ensure the stability of

Moreover, it aims at achieving free trade between Jordan and the Palestinian territories. According to Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb, joint committees will meet soon to find practical implementations for the trade agree-

ment. He told the Jordan Times, that the joint committee will determine the duty-free commodities that will be exchanged in a way that will enhance economic integration but protect loc-

To some critics of Jorpeace treaty Israel, the agreement with the PNA could be seen as one that increases Jordan's association with Israel since the Palestinian territories including the autonomous

al industries on both sides.

are still under Israeli laws. To some cynics, the agreement has reinforced suspicions in the Arab World that treaties with Israel are prerequisites for inter-Arab reconciliation.

But, in the view of analysts who see the importance of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty to the Kingdom, the Jordanians and Palestinians had had to meet some prerequisites of the post-cold war era and now they can afford to increase their manoueverability.

The importance of the treaty to inter-Arab action. according to analysts, will largely hinge on the success of the recent Arab moves, which some politicians, already describe as the

Palestinians.

Treaty.

Arab awakening, to restore inter-Arab coordination. Consequently, the role of Egypt Syria and Saudi Arabia will be extremely crucial, especially if Cairo insisted with Arab support, on its demand that Israel sign the Non-Proliferation

But on the bilateral level. the agreement also gives way to many unsolved and sensitive questions. It is no secret that the separate agreement between the Palestinians and Israel and the Jordan-Israel peace treaty have widened the Palestinian-Jordanian di-

In political speeches and statements, politicians and officials stress the unique and special relations. But in conversation, resentment and disappointment often surface. Analysts believe these feelings need more than an agreement to address.

Among Jordanians, one finds many people who blame Mr. Arafat for dragging the Arabs into disadvantageous deals with

Many fears are not addressed in the protocols. Many analysts see the need for a serious, broad and frank national dialogue as well as dialogue with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

When the Jordan Times asked a senior PNA official whether he expected people to welcome a long awaited bilateral agreement that is partly based on the two sides' agreements with Israel and whether he viewed the two accords with Israel as the terms of reference of a joint strategy with Jordan, the official replied: "the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is not based on our agree-ments with Israel but these agreements cannot be

Based on interviews with officials from both sides, before and after signing the agreement, Jordan and the Palestinians see their understanding as crucial to better inter-Arab relations and formulating and achieving an Arab agenda and objectives for the current peace process.

ignored."

# Jordan, Israel 'stuck' on accord

Israel's Ben Gurion airport and leave by the other as part of joint Jordanian-Israeli

tourism packages.
Mr. Kessar was also quoted as saying that he was convinced that the two countries would eventually work out an agreement and that Jordan stood to benefit from

# When is a rampage not a rampage

(Continued from page 6) set her up as president of a future Palestine, a putative role for which Hanan Ashrawi may not thank Victor. The author has a tendency to romanticise her heroine and it comes as no surprise to find the dust jacket informing us that Barbara Victor ("who has covered the Middle East for most of her professional life") is the author of four novels. What advice can one give? Stick to novels, Barbara, stick to novels.

the use of Israeli airspace at this point in time. Israel has not reached overflight agreements with Saudi Arabia. and, as such, El Al cannot use Jordanian airspace for its

eastward flights. According to Mr. Kessar, Israel still wanted the aviation agreement with Jordan to go through in order to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. the Jerusalem Post said.

However, international aviation experts are not convinced with the Israeli argument. They say that the Israeli posture in the negotiations with Jordan could shift dramatically if Israel secured Saudi permission to use Saudi airspace for El Al's eastward

flights.
"For the moment, Israel sees little advantage in any right to use Jordanian airspace because it cannot use it to go eastward and halve El Al's flight times to the Far East," noted an expert. "But if Israel secured overflight rights in Saudi airspace, then the situation would change before you can say Jack Robinson."

# Israelis storm Islamic college | Algerian poll firm — minister

participation of all political

forces." The FIS was banned in March 1992, two months after the government cancelled the second round of a general election which the fundamentalist 'movement was poised to win.

French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has ordered a halt to all French arms sales to Algeria, including the controversial supply of helicopters, the magazine Le Nouvel Economiste said on Thursday.

The foreign ministry refused to comment on the report but said France had held only a minor place among Algeria's suppliers. The magazine said Mr. Balladur took the decision

(Continued from page 12) after the hijack of an Air France plane in Algiers on Dec. 24, in which gunmen killed four passengers before the Algerian authorities agreed to let the plane fly to France, where police commandos stormed it.

> In Algiers, the moderate Socialist Forces Front of Hocine Ait Ahmed issued a call for Algerians to use every possible peaceful means to implement the "national contract" which it signed in Rome with other opposition

Its national council said the document was the basis for a "peace dynamic which could end bloodletting and relaunch democracy.

tract a reality needed the participation of all political groupings, it said.

# Arafat hails Amman accords

(Continued from page 1) accords with Israel, was in itself a Palestinian acceptance of Jordan's role in Jerusalem's holy shrines.

Israel, in the peace treaty it signed with Jordan on Oct. 26, acknowledges the Kingdom's "special" role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem, and the PLO's commitment to respecting the treaty also meant an acceptance of this provision, the analysts pointed out. In return, in the same

its support for the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy accord and also for the Palestinian quest for an independent state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital. Jordan has said it would

preamble. Jordan reaffirmed

retain its custody of the Jerusalem shrines only until the Palestinians gain sovereignty over the Holy City. Apparently this formula was satisfying to both sides. No Jordanian comment was immediately available. Spokesman Abu Rodeina

declined specific comment on the issue. In his comments in Amman on Friday, Mr. Arafat expressed hope that the

agreements "will promote Arab solidarity," and said Jordan and the PNA were also optimistic that the accord would pave the way for "wider cooperation in the In remarks later at Gaza. Mr. Arafat described Palesti-

'special and unique and in fact (ties) of twins." "We had successful and positive meetings, especially the agreements signed to wheel o tween us forward in the interest of our Palestinian and

Jordanian peoples," he was

nian-Jordanian relations as

quoted as saying by Reuters. The agreements ended a year-long tussle sparked by Mr. Arafat's refusal to ratify an economic agreement signed in January 1994 even after the accord was modified to address the Palestinian quest for symbols of independence.

However, with pressure from hardline Palestinian groups mounting on the one side while the autonomy accord is making snail's pace on the other, Mr. Arafat dropped his posture and sought to consolidate ties with Jordan, political obser-

vers say. Mr. Arafat met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on his way home to Gaza. Reports from the Egyptian capital said the two leaders discussed the continued expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Mubarak's political adviser Osama Al Baz told reporters after the meeting Egypt was pleased that "the vice has tightened round (the Islamic Resistance Movement) Hamas and Islamic Jihad and round other groups who want to torpedo the peace process.'

But he also called on the Israeli government to "change its position of supporting Israeli extremists who aim to undermine the peace

Negotiations on extending Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank - the next stage of implementing the auton-omy accords — have stalled since a double suicide bombing on Sunday near the Israeli coastal resort of Netanya which killed 20 people.

It was claimed by Islamic Jihad, which opposes PLO-Israel autonomy deal.

According to Dr. Baz. Egypt wanted the autonomy negotiations to continue, "but the recent incidents may cause a backslide in the peace process, due to the excessive ter each attack by militants.

Dr. Baz said Egypt was "satisfied with the coordination between Jordan and the PLO — two of the main partners in the peace pro-

Mr. Arafat briefed Mr. Mubarak on the accords he signed in Amman on Thursday and he also met Dr. Baz and Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif.

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Welcome the visit of

#### **HRH Crown Prince Naruhito** and Princess Masako

Wishing them a happy stay in Jordan

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

On the occasion of

# INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY **AL KARMEL** Tours and Travel Agency

offers its congratulations to

the Indian people and

the staff of the Indian embassy in Amman.

# 6 policemen, 4 militants killed in Egypt

MINYA, Egypt (Agencies) scripts as they arrived in a - have been killed so far this Six policemen and four militants were killed in clashes in the troubled southern province of Minya on Friday, adding to the tally of Egypt's deadliest month in three years of unrest, police

said. They said the policemen were killed in Abu Qurqus, and the militants in a separate clash in the town of Minya itself, around 250 kilometres south of Cairo. Militants hiding in a sugar-

movements and the FIS. cane field opened fire at con-Saleh says Saudis massed troops

Making the national con-

#### Saudi defence ministry told the official agency SPA that "reports by foreign press agencies about renewed tension on the border with Yemen are completely base-

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Saleh accused unnamed parties of wanting to impose a fait accompli He said talks in Rivadh between Saudi officials and a

Yemeni delegation led by

Parliament Speaker Sheikh

Abduliah Ben Hussein Al Ahmar "have not made any progress vet." The two countries are in

dispute over three provinces close to the border, assigned to Saudi Arabia under a treaty signed in 1934. Yemen argues it expired in September 1992 but has said it is willing to renegotiate the accord.

van to relieve colleagues.

Five policemen were also

kilometres to the north,

police raided a hindeout and

shot dead the four militants

Another policeman was

wounded in the raid, during

which four suspects were

arrested and a cache of

weapons and explosives

31 militants and 22 policemen

Sixty people — including

in an apartment.

found.

Earlier in Minya, 20

wounded in the ambush.

Mr. Saleh said "even in the case of Saudi aggression Yemen will not retaliate," adding that Yemen had not massed any forces on its border.

He voiced hopes that Syria and Egypt would continue efforts to mediate in the dispute.

#### Thousands line up for homes (Continued from page 12)

What we need now is psychological support." "There were many small

fights among us. Minor quarrels could soon blow up a huge turmoil," Mr. Soeda Psychiatrists say long spells

without privacy would put more stress on the newly homeless, haunted by the horrors of the earthquake and worried about their uncertain future. "The absence of privacy in

refugee camps will sharply increase stress because of the loss of homes and loved ones. They must have hope, and a specific goal," said psychiat-Tokyo Medical and Dental University

"The more we think about our future, the more uneasy we feel. No jobs, no homes and no money," said evacuee Koreyuki Morishita, 46. "And some of us have lost family members."
The Foreign Ministry ack-

nowledged on Friday that it may have been slow to repond to overseas offers of emergency aid following the quake, but said it had to wait for an initial assessment of the disaster. The central government

has been widely criticised for its failure to respond more quickly to offers of aid from overseas which started pouring in shortly after the Richrist Akira Yamakami of the ter 7.2 earthquake ripped through central Japan. Many people were particu-"People under extreme larly upset that it took the

stress like this might resort to Japanese government 30 violence in one form or hours to accept Switzerland's another," said Dr. Yamaka- offer to dispatch a rescue mi, a member of a volunteer team of sniffer dogs trained team of psychiatric advisers to look for people under

month, making it the deadliest since the militants launched a war to topple the government of President Hosni Mubarak in March

Eighteen people have died in the last week alone as police stepped up the fight against fundamentalists.

On Thursday security forces shot dead leading militant Ali Hassan Al Sherif at a train station in the Sohag area, 500a kilometres south of Cairo.

Police said Sherif was the military chief of the outlawed Al Gamaa Islamiyah for the Assiut region. Security forces killed another militant in Beni Suef, elsewhere in southern Egypt.

Four days earlier police killed the new head of Gamaa, Mahmoud Sayed Selim, and his bodyguard after a chase through Sohag. Selim had been hunted for years for carrying 36 attacks. officers said.

On the same day police

shot dead two other militants in Beni Spef, while the second officer in two days was killed in Minya province. Friday's early operation

took place in a medical clinic that the extremists were using as hideout, according to security official. Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency later reported that one of the

wounded had died. It referred to the clinic as "a den of terrorism." The doctor who runs the clinic where the extremists hid and the owner of the building, a Muslim clergy-

with the group, he said. After the battle, police arrested 21 suspected militants in a widespread crackdown on the radical group in

man, both were sympathisers

Security officials say as many as 90 activists are believed to be operating in the area, some of whom fled nearby provinces after successful police attacks on their hideouts.

# Japanese crown prince ends visit

(Continued from page 1)

bute to Japanese-Jordanian relations and underlined Jordan's appreciation of Tokyo's self-reliance oriented assistance to the Kingdom. "This approach rests on the firm belief that the resolution of economic and social problems is the key to maintaining international peace and security." the Crown Prince said.

"The people of Jordan are fully appreciative of the support provided by Japan dur-ing the past difficult phase." he said. "They are particularly aware that such bilateral cooperation was significantly expanded during the most difficult period of our recent history in the last few years."

"Jordanians look with much admiration" to the Japanese experience in achieving self-reliance, the Crown Prince said. "This also explains the sense of solidarity and compassion that was widely felt in Jordan when the recent disaster struck the people of Kobe."

The Crown Prince said he was looking forward to Japanese participation along with other world powers in

Prince Hassan also paid tri- the economic conference to be held in Jordan later this year as a follow-up to the Casablanca summit held late last year.

The Crown Prince concluded his address emphasising the "shared values and objectives," and quoting Japanese poet Ho'-O' who wrote several decades ago: Mountains of green, mountains of blue arise, my gratitude wells up and fills my

On Friday, Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath and Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Al Hassan accompanied the Japanese guests on a tour of Umm Qais in the north, where officials presented briefings on Jordan's water situation, the impact of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on the water sector and on Japan's assistance to Jordan in the water sector as well as to develop scientific research in the Kingdom.

Earlier in the day, Princess Naruhito visited the tombs of King Abdullah, King Talal and Queen Zein Al Sharaf. the Queen Mother, and laid wreaths there.







Welcomes His Majesty King Hussein's And His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's Guests

His Imperial Highness

**Crown Prince Naruhito** and Her Imperial Highness

**Crown Princess Masako** 

Wishing them an enjoyable stay in Jordan

# Arab economic problems worsened — report | U.S. House approves

Arab states continued to suffer from deficits in their budgets and balance of payments in 1993 while their industrial sector slowed down and a chronic food gap widened, an official report said

Although they managed to trim budget deficits, they achieved this through a reduction of expenditure rather than through growth in revenues or economic reforms, said the annual economic report prepared by the Abu Dhabibased Arab Monetary Fund

The report, a summary of which was published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Bayan. said a decline in oil earnings coupled with the huge Gulf war bill and lower remittances widened a gap in balance of payments in most member states and turned a surplus in some oil producers

"Estimates show that the balance of payments in Arab countries, as reflected by their current accounts, as reflected by their current accounts, have generally deteriorated," said the report about the Arab economic and social developments in 1993.

The report, which has not been released yet, divided member states into two groups -- key oil exporters Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and the remaining members of the 22nation Arab League.

It said the current account deficit in the first group increased to 6.3 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) in 1993 but gave no figures.

In the second group, the current account has been "characterised by a con-tinuous deficit which illus-

trates the existing weakness in their economic structures and their limited export capability and expansionary financial policies," said the report. also prepared by the Arab League economic department, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the

Social Development. It said remittances provided a key source of income for the second group and their decline in 1993 widened the current account deficit by 32 per cent.

Arab Fund for Economic and

'As for budgets, estimates show Arab governments managed to cut spending by nine per cent. Despite a decline in revenues by 5.7 per cent, the budget deficit dropped to 9.6 per cent of the GDP in 1993 from 11 per cent

in 1992," it said. It said the first group, which accounts for around

two thirds of the Arab GDP, 14.2 per cent mainly because had slashed the deficit by 10 of a fall in crude revenues to per cent and the second group by 12 per cent.

It provided no figures but the previous annual report showed the combined Arab budget deficit stood at nearly \$41 billion in 1992. The deficit in the first group stood at \$34.7 billion, nearly 85 per cent of the total.

The Arab deficit hit a record \$65 billion in 1991, with GCC states Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE accounting for \$54.5 billion. This was due to payment of

more than \$65 billion for the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi invasion forces. The report showed non-oil

industries grew by 9.6 per cent in 1993 compared with 26.3 per cent in 1992. Growth in the overall industrial sector, which includes oil, plummetted to two per cent from

# \$97 billion from \$101 billion.

The agricultural sector suffered even more due to weather conditions and other factors, according to the report. Cereal production declined by 1.7 per cent, including 4.1 per cent for grain and the federal government to 1.9 per cent for rice. "Such conditions aggra-

vated the Arab food gap, which grew by 13 per cent," said. "Arab states are still suffering from a gap in most food products, except fish. The gap in cereal and grain accounts for nearly half."

The report said most Arab nations pressed ahead with reforms to tackle their economic woes but added such programmes had been slow. Some members still have no stock markets to ensure the success of privatisations while others have yet to liberalise trade and interest rates.

# balanced budget amendment

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the U.S. constitution, proposed by the Republican majority, that would compel pass the bill.

balance its budget by 2002. The measure aimed at wip-ing out persistent federal deficits was adopted 300-132. 12 more than the two-thirds majority required, in a vote that crossed party lines. Only two of the House's 230 Re-

publicans voted against it. The measure would still required passage by the Sen-ate and approval by threefourths of the states to be implemented, but was seen as a victory for Republicans who won majorities in the House and Senate in the Nov. 8 midterm elections.

Lawmakers burst into a round of cheers as House Speaker Newt Gingrich announced early results that pushed the vote past the number of votes needed to

"We kept our promise," made in the Republican "Contract with America," to restore fiscal integrity to

Congress, Mr. Gingrich said.

Each and every one of our children today is endowed with \$18,000 of federal debt," said Republican leader Dick Armey of Texas. Without the amendment, he said, "that indebtedness will grow larger and larger.

Democratic minority leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri opposed the measure. He said the issue would call for "the most important votes we will cast here in Congress no matter how long we've been here or how long we will

Democrats tried unsuccessfully to prod Republicans into detailing a list of major spending cuts they would support in order to bring about the balanced budget, and sought to exempt social security spending from future

President Bill Clinton's spokesman Mike McCurry said after the vote that a balanced budget was every-body's goal. "But the presi-dent would also like to see the details of how the House would propose to meet this new constitutional require-

In an earlier television interview, Mr. Clinton said Americans "are entitled to know, does (the measure) mean their taxes are going up, does this mean that the're going to cut medicare and social security across the board, what is the price of

Unlike other bills passed by Congress, a constitutional amendment does not require Mr. Clinton's approval be-fore it is submitted to the

Republicans say they have no plans to make any cuts in social security.

The amendment details call for a balanced budget starting either in 2002, or two years after ratification by three-quarters of the states.

Thereafter, it requires a three-fifths vote in both houses to waive the amendment for any one year.

#### dollar recovering from temporary weakness Merrill Lynch sees

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Jan. 19, 1995 until Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1995, was provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

#### Overview

Fundamental View: Uncertainty about whether or not President Clinton's \$40 billion package of loan guarantees for Mexico will be able to get through Congress has been weighing on the dollar along with concerns about the upcoming FOMC meeting. Add to that the report that Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. grew to a record \$56 billion in 1994 and it is little surprise that the dollar had a rather difficult week.

We think this weakness is temporary and expect the dollar to recover once turmoil surrounding the Mexican crisis dissipates and the Fed raises interest rates again. Our Fed watchers continue to expect the Fed to tighten interest rates by 50 basis points at the Jan. 31-Feb. 1 meeting and probably

Currently, the interest rate spread between U.S. and Japanese 3-month Euro rates is around 379 basis points, up about 35 basis points from a month ago. The same spread for the U.S. and Germany is around 108 basis points, up about 45 basis points from a month ago. If the Fed tightens interest rates as we expect, those spreads could widen by another

50-to-100 basis points over the next couple of months.

Eased on this widening interest rate differential, we look for the dollar to trade near JPY/USD 105 in three-and six-months time before slower growth in the U.S. and higher interest rates in Japan push it back towards its long-term trend of depreciation. Our 12-month forecast if JPY/USD 95. Against the mark, we expect the dollar to rebound to trade in the range of DM/USD 1.60-to-1.85 for most of the

Technical View: The weak short term momentum and sentiment background continued to take its toll as the U.S. dollar index lost ground for the third time in four weeks. Overall, the greenback fell against four of the six major currencies that we regularly discuss. The decline of the past month has done much to damage the medium term momentum background of the index. However, short term oscillators are near oversold and are attempting to bottom. Thus, with the prospects for a rally in coming days apparently improving, the medium term pressures are likely to be

relieved. As a result, we will have to monitor the quality of any nearby rally since the next short term peak may also be a more important medium term top. The index has retraced about 80 per cent of its October-December rally, and a move towards 86.90 is possible in the context of the short term bottoming process. Important resistance remains in the 89-91.00 area.

# Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The Japanese yen is currently trading JPY/USD 99.8 but we expect it to decpreciate over the next few months for a number of reasons: (1) The spread between U.S. and Japanese short rates is widening; (2) Japan's trade surplus should decline; (3) the yield curve in Japan will

A BOOK OF

POETRY ... I'M GIVING

IT TO A GIRL IN

MY CLASS..

probably steepen; and (4) net capital outflows from the U.S. appear to be slowing down.

Recently, we revised our short-and medium-term outlook for the yen to JPY/USD in three- and six-month's time while maintaining our long-term outlook JPY/USD 85. The Kobe earthquake has added to our conviction that the dollar will be strengthened in coming months.

In the U.S., growth continues to be strong and we expect real GDP for the fourth quarter to come in at a 4.5 per cent rate. In our view, this will prompt the Fed to raise rates again. Conversely, the earthquake in Japan will dampen growth in the near-term and force the Bank of Japan to keep rates low for in coming months. The spread between U.S. and Japanese short-rates is currently around 380 basis points and that could widen to 500 basis points over the next few

Also, the current account surplus in Japan which has been the principle force behind yen appreciation will probably decline as the rebuilding process encourages more imports. Lastly, net capital flows - the other side of the balance of payments equation — should move in the dollar's favour as returns in the U.S. market look more favourable. Pressure on the Japanese government to finance rebuilding through the issuance of bonds implies that the yield curve should steepen in Japan while bond yield in the U.S. may be near their peaks. However, current account dynamics in the longer-run still point to a trend of dollar depreciation.

Technical View: The Japanese yen fell 0.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Jan. 20. The sentiment background for the currency remains oversold. Benchmark support remains at 100.80-101.80 Y/U.S.\$ and, with short term momentum apparently peaking, that support may be tested again over the near term.

#### Deutschemark

Fundamental View: The Deutschemark continues to benefit from a "flight to quality" that began with the Mexican crisis and carried over into other countries where current account or budget imbalances, political problems, or earthquakes were a cause for investor anxiety. The mark has seen significant appreciation against both the dollar and a variety of cross rates over the last month as investors looked for safe

The mark is currently trading near DM/USD 1.51 compared to DM/USD 1.58 a month ago. At this level, the mark some ground if, as we expect, the Fed tightens interest rates at the upcoming FOMC meeting on Jan. 31-Feb. 1. A month ago, short-term rates in the U.S. offered about a 60 basis point premium to German rates. Now that premium has expanded to over 100 basis points and could expand by another 50-to-100 basis points over the next few months as the Fed raises U.S. rates.

The Bundesbank, on the other hand, is expected to wait until the third or fourth quarter before raising either the Lombard or the discount rate. Indeed, the Bundesbank may even keep the repo rate fixed until after the May French elections.

We mainain our outlook for the mark to head toward our three-,six- and 12-month forecasts of DM/USD 1.60, 1.65

I'D RATHER HAVE

A TWENTY-DOLLAR

GIFT CERTIFICATE.

# Technical View: The Deutschemark gained 1.4 per cent

against the U.S. dollar last week, and was the strongest of the six major currencies we regularly discuss. Sentiment has been deteriorating recently and is moving back to neutral-territory. The currency has now retraced most of its October-December decline and, as a result, short term momentum is near overbought readings. At the same time, medium term oscillators are only neutral, so any nearby currency weakness may only serve to carry these oscillators to better oversold levels.

In the meantime, nearby resistance exists at 1.492-1.509 DM/U.S.\$. At this point, 1.58 is benchmark support, although there is intervening support at 1.542-1.582. Against the yen, the D-mark rallied 0.6 per cent last week.

Despite the fact that medium term oscillators did not reach oversold territory, they seem to have turned up again. With this in mind, a rally through 66.60 may be a legitimate breakout from a multi-month trading range. In the meantime, there is important trendline support near 63.60.

#### Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound rose to a two-month high against the dollar a USD/GBP 1.60. Against the mark, it rose to a two-week high at DM/GBP 2.42. The recent release of fourth-quarter real GDP that showed it to be up 0.8 per cent from the third quarter and 4.1 per cent from a year ago has renewed speculation for a near-term interest rate increase. The next monthly meeting between the Bank of England Governor Eddle George and the Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke is slated for Feb. 2 and some market participants look for a rate increase at this time.

However, the we think another rate increase is not likely before March. The minutes from the December 7th meeting indicate that Governor George thinks that the markets are being overly pessimistic about the outlook for inflation and the amount of tightening that will be needed - are being overly pessimistic about the outlook for inflation and the amount of tightening that will be needed — Sterling futures imply a 200 basis point increase.

We expect rates to increase by 100 basis points in two 50 basis point increments. Still, that should be enough to push the pound toward our 12-month forecast of DM/GBP 2.60. Currently, the real interest rate spread between U.K. and German short rates is around 100 basis points and that should widen as the U.K. raises rates. However, as we expect the dollar to rebound against the mark over the next few months, the pound is likely to give back some of its gains against the dollar. We expect the pound to be trading near USD/GBP 1.56 in 12-months time.

Technical View: The British pound advanced 1.4 per cent-versus the U.S. uollar during the week ended Jan. 20. Sentiment is deteriorating toward neutral readings. The currency has retraced about one half of its October-December decline, and short term momentum still has an upward bias. However, these oscillators are nearing overbought readings suggesting that the rally of recent weeks has a little more life in it. A rally through 1.59 U.S./£ could well signal a challenge of \$1.61. Nearby support is \$1.574, with second support at \$1.561. Against the DM, sterling was essentially unchanged last week.

# New board of directors elected for the Jordan **Central Holding Company**

assembly of shareholders in the Jordan Central Holding Company met Wednesday Jan. 25, 1995 at the Plaza hotel. The assembly elected Ms. Suheila Khalii Maqdah as chairperson of the board of directors. Dr. Taher Kanaan.

AMMAN — The general Raja'i Al Dajani, Jad Maqdah, Azzam Al Masri, Mazen Maqdah, Mohammad Al Bilbeisi, Samir Maqdah and Yousef Sandaha (of the Union Savings and Investments Bank) were elected as members of the board.

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 28, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get away from career pressures for a while to regain your equilibrium by being with special friead that you can really enjoy and let your hair down with. Avoid one who is jealous of you and wants to recap the past.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can handle that problem with a partner best by doing nothing about it and it soon resolves itself. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your tasks should go very well provided you to do not let that bossy individual interfere with it. Be

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find it hard to decide which pleasures to delve into during the morning, but later the right outlets

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't enter into any arguments between kin and an official, but show more interests in what partners are doing.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have some good ideas for daily use, but a higher-up does not approve, so put aside for a while. Don't neglect shopping. VIRGO: (Angust 22 to September 22) You find it difficult to decide which of two money interests you want to get into early, but later you make the right decision.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A hasty associate could spoil

your plans for the day, so waste little time with him or her and then carry through with your own ideas.

SCORPRO: (October 23 to November 21) Confer with experts and get advice you need concerning important matters, and forget unnecessary tasks. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Forget that friend who wants to take you out for fun and get fine creative work

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Some public matter should be discussed with kin before you handle it, but don't take

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Not a good day to get in touch with those at a distance, so concentrate on those who are

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use your judgment in monetary matters and don't seek advice from one in business as yet. Be

THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McBeath

Birthstone of January: Garent - Rose Quartz



"I called a support group for impatient people...they put me on hold!"

# **Andy Capp** Mutt'n'Jeff OH, GOOD!

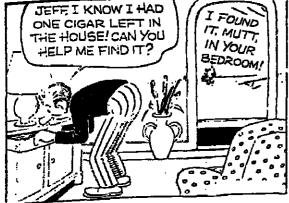
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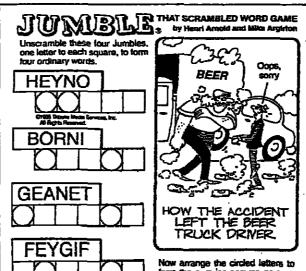
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**Peanuts** 



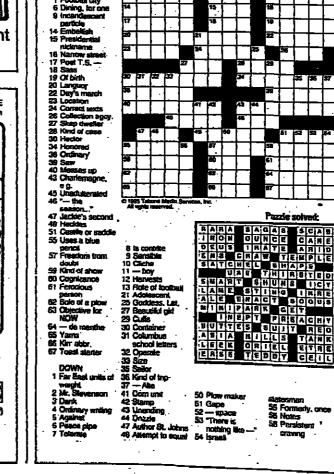






form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon. Print answer here: (Answers Monday) Jumbles: ERUPT PHONY SUBMIT SPLICE

Answer: How the funny seamstress kept her customers — IN STITCHES





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ferential benefits under the

Generalised System of Pre-

ferences. The benefits, for a

period ending 2001, involves

exemptions from customs

duties from 10 per cent up to

☆☆ A seminar is to be held

Monday at the premises of

the Jordan Export Develop-

ment and Commercial Cen-

tres Corporation to explain to

Jordanian industrialists and

businessmen about the Euro-

partenariat which will be held

March 20, 1995 in Dortmund-

★☆ Jordan bought 50,000

tonnes of Argentine rice at

\$170 a tonne including freight

for delivery on March 5, 1995. The deal, which is the

first of a 100,000-tonnes con-

tract under the U.S. export enhancement programme,

Germany (Al Ra'i).

100 per cent (Al Ra'i).

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A review

of economic news

from the Arabic press

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CLIFTED CO. FOR CONSTITUTE CARD TRAFF.	54,096	2,376	3.370	3.374
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AND MOD & RESIDENCE SAFETY	3,127	1.000	1.000	
Direct Create Interests co.lin	31,512		1.760	1.716
ATOME TERMS & PLANTICS INC. CO	16,891	1.170	1.170	1.23
THE REPORT MANY	10,614	I. 200	1.500	1.754
PERSONAL PROPERTY.	71,913	1.770	1.278	1.354
C-bi indi an amerika o.	21,611	1.290	2.254	3.336
THE PART TORSES & CHARGE	61,248	1.648	1.445	1.648
Wally Hear So.	2,315	1.000	1.690	1.986
Milital, Merakanan interprint	712, l'in	1.370	1.270	1.348
MANY CONCLUS ! AMERICAN OF LEGISLES	1,470	2.700	1.704	2.700
Albu (Cir.	M, 063	1-020	1.439	1.000
SEASO TOTAL		MINE		

\*\* The Ministry of Supply will severely punish any trader who violates the ministry'sfixed price of 380 fils for government-imported American rice. An official urged the public to make sure they are paying the right price for the right quality because other grades of U.S. rice are selling on the free market at prices ranging between 600 fils and 900 fils a kilogramme

☆☆ According to informed sources at the Ministry of Health, prices of medicines are under review to reflect higher international prices and foreign exchange dif-ferentials (Al Dustour).

(Al Ra'i).

\* Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi said Jordan does not oppose an issuing of Palestinian currency. He explained that the Kingdom was only seeking prior coordination with the Palestinians to make the necessary arrangements to avoid unnecessary confusion (Al Dustour).

★★ The Ministry of Supply specified a profit ceiling on some car spare parts at 27 per cent of the actual cost including the FoB (free on board) price plus freight, insurance, customs, sales tax, bank interest and fees as well as any other direct or indirect expenses. The cost is to be calculated by multiplying the FoB price by 25 per cent. Electronic items, lights, windshields, antennas, filters, thermostats and car clocks are among items excluded from the ceiling (Al

\*\* The Al Azraq Cooperative Society, the sole producer of salt in the Kingdom under a concession from the government, wants higher prices after it was forced to add iodine to the salt. The problem has widened in the past couple of days as the society has refused to sell its salt to the bakeries unless the price was raised. The society claims that by adding iodine, its cost has increased although bakeries can obtain salt from foreign suppliers at much cheaper prices (Al

★★ The Public Transport Company intends to keep its buses on roads until 10 p.m. during the month of Ramadan (Al Ra'i) .

kilometres of rural and secon-

#### Cairo Amman Bank NewYork Tokyo Currency Close Date 25/1/95 | Date 26/1/95 1,5927 \*\* entiche Mark 1,5177 1,5164 1,2785 1,2765 \*\* French Franc , 5,2485 5,2471 \*\*

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Japanese Yes	•
European Curreny	Chili
* USD Per STG ** Tempera Opening @	\$56 am GAT

Euroteerskey Interest R	Date: 26/1/1995			
Currency	I MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTIIS	12 MTI
U.S. Dellar	5.75	6.06	6.50	7,12
Sterling Pound	6,00	6,57	18,8	7,56
Dentscha Mark	4.68	4.81	5.06	5.50
Swiss Franc	3,50	3,75	4,00	4,37
French Frenc	5,31	5,50	5,87	6,43
Јареден Үен	2,06	2,06	2,06	2,18
European Currency Unit	5,75	5,93	6,34	6,93

Precions N	lietois			Date: 2	6/1/1995
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Melal	USD/Ot	JD/Gm
Gold	340,70	7,65	Silver	4,78	0,111
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-		Date: 26/1/199		
Currency	Bld ,	Offer		
U.S. Dellar	6,697	0,699		
Sterling Pound	1,1027	1,1142		
Deutsche Mark	0,4590	0,4613		
Swiss Franc .	0,5458	0,5485		
French Franc	0,1328	0,1335		
Japanese Yen*	0,6996	0,7051		
Detch Guilder	0,4094	0,4114		
Swedish Kroaa				
italian Lira	0.0436	0.0432		
Belgian Franc				
N- (5)				

ither Currencits	p	ates 26/1/19
Сителсу	244	Offer
Ashrelal Diser	1,4330	1,8450
Lebenese Litra*	0,041050	0,042310
Smooth Riyal	0,18520	0,12640
Rewald Moor	2,5150	2,3650
Qetari Riyal	0,19020	0,19150
igyptian Pound	0,2000	0,2140]
Omani Riyat	1,5010	1,8120
UAE Dirists	0,11920	0,19860
Greek Drochma <sup>®</sup>	0,2910	0,3225
Canalat Pound	1,5510	1,4415

# Jordan-PLO accords spur AFM activity

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Investors at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) moved in anticipation ahead of Thursday's signing of the Jordan-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and boosted prices and trading in the market, brokers said Friday.

They said the upward swing in the market was likely to continue for some time before speculators move in for profit-taking.
The weekly AFM report

said turnover during last week was JD 6.8 million, up 36 per cent from the previous week's JD 5 million, and 3.5 million shares changed hands under 4,638 contracts.

The general share price index based on 60 major com-

panies closed at 144.5 points, up 1.5 points, or one per cent, over the week's opening of 143 points.

Shares in the service sector rose by an average of 3.3 points, or 2.5 per cent, as indicated by the separate sector index. The commercial bank and financial institutions index 2.2 points, or 1.4 per cent, higher, the insurance sector closed at 0.6 points or 0.4 per cent higher, and the industrial index rose by 0.2 points, or 0.2 points, the AFM report said.

The services sector also accounted for the highest sectoral turnover during the week, with a volume of JD 2.42 million, or 35.6 per cent, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 2.32 million, or 34.1 per cent, industrial stock

per cent, and the insurance sector with ID 33,000, or 0.4

per cent. were traded during the week. As trading closed, 51 of them showed gains, 18 showed losses and 17 remained stable.

the AFM report said. Brokers attributed the rise to expectations ahead of Thursday's signing of the "memo of understanding and cooperation" between Jordan and the PLO by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and PLO Chairman

Yasser Arafat. several times last year," said

Shares of 86 companies

"Investors were somehow convinced reports of an impending visit by Mr. Arafat and the expected signing of the accord was not a false alarm as it had happened

with JD 2.03 million, or 29.9 a broker, who, like AFM dealers, cannot be identified by name under standing mar-

ket guidelines.
"They moved fast acting upon the indications, and hence part of the boost in prices and trading last week," said the broker.

In general, market experts noted that many Jordanian companies stood to benefit from activities in the Palestinian territories and as such any Jordanian-Palestinian economic movement was bound to have an impact on AFM trading and prices.

"Beyond the financial considerations, there is also the psychological assurance that investors get by positive developments in the Jordanian-Palestinian political scene."

Jordanian-Palestinian accord, the way is now open for Jordanian economic interaction with businesses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," noted the broker. "This will definitely mean increased interest in the market, translating into higher prices and turnover."

Another "strong point" in the Jordan-PLO accord is a provision that neither side would adopt "any unilateral measure" that could undermine the currency of the other. This provision is widely welcomed among Jordanian investors since it means that the Jordanian dinar would not be subject to any "shocks" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the abrupt issuance of a Palesti-

# Lebanon tries to tempt U.S. business to Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon sends a high-powered mission to Washington Monday to tempt U.S. companies to get involved in its multi-billiondollar reconstruction prog-

Mission leader Asa'ad Rizk hopes that U.S. corporations it interests in Lebanese projects will lobby Washington to lift its travel ban on the Middle East country that is struggling to recover from 15 years of civil war.

Mr. Rizk, who is industry and oil minister, will also tell U.S. businessmen that companies which invest in Lebanon will be well placed to expand in the Middle East when peace comes to the region.

On offer under the Beirut government's \$1.4 billion Horizon 2000 reconstruction plan are infrastructure pro-

jects in the next 10 years worth at least \$11.4 billion and possibly as much as \$18 billion. Mr. Rizk said in a recent interview.

Private sector projects could total another \$20 biltion during the period, added Mr. Rizk, who heads the most high-powered economic mission Lebanon has sent to the United States.

The 14-man mission includes the heads of Lebanon's associations for trade, banking, construction, business and industry, the head of the government investment agency and the chairman of Solidere, Lebanon's biggest company which is rebuilding war-devastated central Beirut.

Mr. Rizk admits the mission's strategy is double-edged: If U.S. companies want a slice of the pie they

can lobby to get the U.S. travel ban lifted.

"It's not beautiful to say it, but yes, this is the fact," Mr. Rizk told Reuters. "We are holding a carrot to the Amer-

And step by step, with the use of these businessmen, we hope that we will remove the travel ban," he added.

Washington has barred U.S. citizens travelling to Lebanon since 1985 when a TWA airliner was hijacked to Beirut during the 1975-90 civil war. Its passengers were held in the city by Shiite Muslim gunmen after one was killed on the plane.

Four years after the war the ban still prevents Lebanon's Middle East Airlines (MEA) flying to the United States and U.S. airlines from flying to Beirut, and even

bars the sale in the United States of tickets to Beirut. Mr. Rizk said he hoped the ticketing ban, at least, would

be lifted by the U.S. State Department soon. Beirut's ambassador to Washington, Riad Tabbara.

is to hold separate talks in Washington next month on improving security conditions in Lebanon to prompt even-tual lifting of the ban.

U.S. companies, unable to send executives to Beirut, have had little success in netting lucrative contracts as Lebanon's reconstruction gathers pace.

"Until today we've imlemented projects for over semented projects for over selection taken by European firms and one Korean firm,' Mr. Rizk said.

Centrepiece of the six-day mission will be a Washington forum at which members wil outline Lebanon's economic situation and prospects, and spell out public sector projects including road building. telecommunications and port

reconstruction. Private sector prospects include hotel building and tourism, oil tank farms, oil drilling, prospection and refinery.

"This is what we are going to say... we think that in the future Lebanon will have a very important role in the area after the peace settlement," Mr. Rizk said.

"With Syria and Jordan we will have a very large market and by starting doing business in Lebanon companies will expand to the whole area better than from the occupied territory or anywhere else,

#### **LONDON EXCHANGE RATES**

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.4154/64 1.5126/36 1.6962/72 1.2736/46 31.20/24 5.2387/37 1602.8/3.8 99.42/52 7.4625/25 6.6320/70 5.9760/10

One sterling \$1,5890/00 One ounce of gold \$379.75/380.25 Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders

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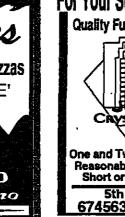
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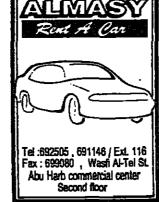


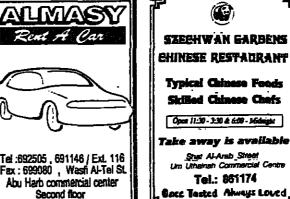








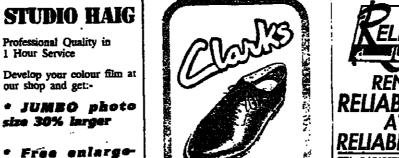






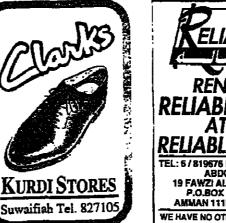
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# Agassi to play Sampras in final

was an Australian Open semifinal, but Andre Agassi treated it like another practice session.

Agassi, the colorful No. 2 seed, continued his amazing run through the opening Grand Slam tournament of the year when fellow American Aaron Krickstein retired Friday when trailing 6-4, 6-4,

Krickstein cited a groin injury suffered early in the match as the season for his withdrawal — but he had no chance of winning.

Agassi dominated the match with his whiplash groundstrokes and will now face defending champion and top seed Pete Sampras in Sunday's final.

Agassi, the U.S. Open champion, has won all six of his matches at the National Tennis Center in straight sets.

"It's exciting to come down here for the first time and make the final," Agassi said. The match was play under the retractable center court roof because of a storm that subsequently flooded areas of

the stadium and left the cen-

ter court and media areas under ankle-deep water. "You kind of think that when you've got a stadium with a rood you've got all the angles covered." Agassi Agassi joked of the floodwaters, which officials believed were caused by a blocked drain.

Agassi said he felt sorry for Krickstein and that had affected his own concentra-

'Aaron worked so hard to get this far he deserved to be out there," Agassi said. "I kind of sensed he wasn't at his best, so I pulled of a lot of my shots.

"I made some errors because of a lack of concentration because I was more concerned what was happening on the other side of the net. I lost a little bit of intensity to play my own shots."

Sampras, who said Thursday that he was emotionally and physically tired, has had a far more difficult path to the final.

The defending champion, defeated fellow American Michael Chang 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in three hours, seven minutes in his semifinal on

He had been extended to five sets in his two previous matches — by Magnus Larssen and Jim Courier — and has played for more than 14 hours so far.

Agassi, by contrast, has completed his matches in just over eight hours.

Sampras advanced to his seventh Grand Slam title and will be seeking his sixth title in both 1993 and 1994.

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III. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES



World No. 1 Pete Sampras wipes away his sweat during his semifinal match (AFP photo)

"There's going to be a lot of variables involved in the money of U.S.\$6.2 million final — it certainly has all the ingredients necessary for a great match," Agassi said. Agassi said he wasn't con-

cerned about going into the final without a tough match under his belt. "The dynamics of the

match on Sunday will bring out the best in me regardless of what happened today," he

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who faces Mary Pierce in the women's final on Saturday, won the women's doubles championships in partnership with Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic.

The No. 2 seeds won their second straight Grand Slam by beating the top-seeded combination of Gigi Fernandez of the United States and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4.

Fernandez and Zvereva had been bidding for their 10th Grand Slam title and had won the Australian title

The tournament, spon-

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and concludes Sunday. Black out on news about Gullikson's condition

Tim Gullikson, the coach of world tennis number-one Pete Sampras, is undergoing brain and heart tests at the University of Illinois at the Chicago Medical Center.

But details of the condition of the 43-year-old former player, who had to return to the United States from the Australian Open after suffering dizzy spells, were not revealed at the request of his family.

In a statement the only medical information the hospital would confirm was that Gullikson had suffered two mild strokes recently and that he had been diagnosed as having a congenital heart condition.

The statement also said that Gullikson had telephoned Sampras shortly after his arrival in the United States and had described the defending champion's performance at the year's open-

CREDIT/COLLECTIONS

Credit/Collection Manager

ing Grand Slam tournament

"an extraordinary effort." Sampras, who has reached the Australian Open singles final, broke down and swept during a marathon five-set quarter-final victory over Jim Courier when a fan called out: "Do it for you coach,

Australian Open notebook

Mary Pierce heads into Saturday's Australian Open final against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario with an unenviable record in title matches.

The French fourth seed contested five tournament finals in 1994 — including the French Open — and was unable to come up with a win. But WTA tour veteran Pam Shriver is among those who think it's only a matter of

"Mary can do it," Shriver said. "But she has not shown great form in finals. She is going to win a Grand Slam at some point and it could very be on Saturday.' Shriver described the final

"extremely hard to call." 'Arantxa's more consistent. She's won three Grand Slams before, but on form its close to a toss up. It's as interesting matchcup. They're the two players, who've shown the best

★ Fred and Vijay star: Fred Stolle, better known as a television tennis commentator, and film star partner Vijay Amritraj won a hardfought senior men's doubles final at the Australian Open

on Friday.

A two-time Grand Slam singles winner during his career, Stolle and former Wimbledon quarterfinalist Amritraj — who appeared in the James Bond film Octopussy - took the first set against Australian duo Bob Carmichael and Kim War-wick 7-6 and 7-5 in the tiebreaker.

They then lost the second set 2-6 before fighting back to clinch the match in a sudden death tiebreaker, which they

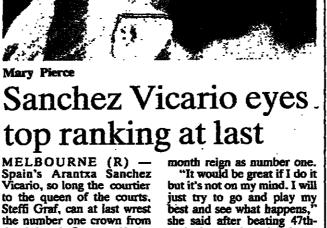
☆ Prize money pot: The winners of the men's and women's singles titles at this year's Australian Open will walk away with \$360,000

It is a long way from the equivalent of \$7,500 Ken Rosewall got at today's exchange rates for beating Arthur Ashe in the 1971

Those were also the days when equal prizemoney did not exist, and Margaret Court earned the equivalent of just \$1,350 for her threesetswin over Evonne Goolagong the same year.

\* Aussie success: No Australian woman made it into the third round of the women's singles at the Australian Open, but the local junior women are doing a whole lot better.

Two Australians will meet in the junior girls final -Annabel Elwood and Siobhan Drake Brockman.



ranked American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer in a onesided semifinal. She has also rejected any pyschological advantage from her defeat of the Canadianborn Pierce in Paris after her opponent had made French Open history by becoming the first player to drop only

the number one crown from

the injured German if she

wins Saturday's Australian

But standing in her way as

a new pretender to the throne

is France's Mary Pierce, only

20 and in irresistible form in

her progress to the year's first

Pierce nor top seed and world

number two Sanchez Vicario

has dropped a set in six

matches at this tournament.

though the Spaniard has yet

The 23-year-old winner of

three Grand Slams, two of

them last year, does not re-

gard the unprecedented ease

of her passage to a Grand

Slam final as giving her oppo-

ure on you because, even

though the seeded players are

not there, these (unseeded)

players are playing well and make it tough," said Sanchez

The tenacious Spaniard.

whose fighting spirit has

made her a favourite among

the fans, was hammered 6-0

but much has happened in

the women's game since

She went on to win her first

Grand Slam of the year by beating Pierce 6-4 6-4 at the

French Open in early June

then followed that up with

victory over the formidable

But her second title was

Graf's subsequent struggle

to regain fitness has given the

resilient Sanchez Vicario, so

long in the shadow of Graf

against a Graf who, seriously affected by a back injury, let slip a 6-1 3-2 lead to lose in

Graf at the U.S. Open.

"It puts even more press-

nent any advantage.

Vicario.

three sets.

Neither the fourth-seeded

Grand Slam final.

to play a seed.

Open title.

10 games on her way to the Pierce, whose loss in Paris marked her first Grand Slam final appearance, is playing as aggressively and arguably more consistently than seven

months ago. She has only dropped 25 games on the way to the final and her semifinal opponent. wolrd number three Conchita Martinez, who was blitzed 6-3 6-1, compared the power of her groundstrokes to Graf's.

Pierce, the world number five, has gained in confidence after freeing herself from the dominance of her father, Jim, who was banned indefinitely from all her tournaments in 1993 because of his disruptive behaviour.

Under Nick Bo one-time mentor of Andre Agassi and now also coach of Boris Becker, Pierce has been more focused and appears to have brought her unpredictable temperament under control.

Bollettieri, who took over coaching duties at the beginning of last year, returned to the United States earlier this week but has been advising

her by telephone. "He's helped me quite a bit tactically and mentally. We work on everything in my game," Pierce told reporters after trouncing eighth-seed Natasha Zvereva 6-1 6-4 in

and the absent Monica Seles, the quarter-finals. Pierce, who is bidding to the opportunity to grab the top ranking for the first time. become the first French-To hear her speak over the woman since 1967 to win a past week, however, Satur-Grand Slam, believes she can day's match, her seventh improve on her form. "I'm Grand Slam final, is just happy with the way I am playing but I think I can play better" she said after beating another game and she will Martinez.

# not be thinking about the dream of ending Graf's 19-100-year-old woman in shot put competition

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Margaret White worked for 50 cents an hour during the depression, raised 10 children by herself and outlived two husbands. Now, at age 100, she's competing in the shot

White, who lives alone in the Oklahoma panhandle town of Turpin, is one of 142 amateur athletes who are to compete in track and field Sunday at the Sooner State Games in Oklahoma City. "Old people like me ought

to do something to stay ac-'tive." she said Thursday in a telephone interview. Here's how White stays

active: She takes a 6-pound (2.7-kilogramme) ball for iron, presses it against her chin, crouches, spins and thrusts it as far as she can. Her career best is 12 feet, 11 inches (3.8 metres).

"But she was just 98 back then," said her son, Wendell Palmer, 62, of Pampa, Texas. "And plus, we only had a 4-kilometre shot; we didn't have a 3-kilo one at the

White moved to Turpin three years ago from Liberal. Kan., to be closer to her children. Palmer had become involved in senior Olympictype events, running the 55metre dash and throwing the

One day, he jokingly asked his mother, "why don't you come out with us?"

"She said, 'well, I might just do that.' We set her up at a meet in Pampa and she's been going every year," Pal-mer said. "she has her ups and downs, but she really gets high when we get to talking about going to a meet. She's got a strong

When the weather is warm, White takes her shot outside to practice. Her technique, not likely to be seen in any instructional videos, is surprisingly sound, Palmer said.
"She tries to do it as close to legal as possible," he said.

There's no fancy glide at the end. She just steps through it and hooks it out there." White said all of her chil-

dren were active in sports, but she never had time for sports. Her first husband died when the children were young, and she spent all her time working and raising

# European Basketball Roundup

ATHENS (R) - Olympiakos of Greece beat Badalona of Spain 84-53 (halftime 50-31) in the European Men's Basketball Championship. Olympiakos — Eddie Johnson 18. Dragan Tarlac 18. Alexander Volkov 12. For Badalona — Juan Morales 21. Jordi Villacampa 10, Alfonso Garcia 6.

Real Madrid beat Maccabi Tel Aviv 76-64 in a fluctuating Group A match which saw the Israelis leading 42-32 at halftime. Arvidas Sabonis scored

Madrid's first 11 points but Maccabi stretched clear to 32-19 after just 12 minutes. The Spanish side staged an impressive second half rally as Maccabi's Guy Goodes, a major influence in the first 20 minutes, tired badly. Sabonis top-scored with 23

points as Real Madrid kept their unbeaten home record this season.

In France, ex-European champions Limoges kept their hopes of qualifying for the final phase alive when they scored a cruicial 69-57 win over. Barcelona.

Also unbeaten at home in

Europe this season, Limoges recovered from a disastrous start — they trailed by 10 points after 12 minutes - to wrap up the match in the

second half. American Michael Young was by far the best player in the match, scoring 17 points for the French.

In the first half, play had been dominated by Barcelona, but Limoges made numerous changes and finally found the right formula shortly before the break, closing the gap to three points at halftime on 34-37.

American Tim Kempton then spurred his teammates into action and two threepoint throws from captain Richard Dacoury after 25 minutes put Limoges in the driving seat.

We now must try every-thing against Efes Pilsen. We had a lot of ups and down this season but we can still aim at finishing second in group B," said playmaker Frederic Forte.

Limoges visit pace-setting Efes in an important match next Thursday.

	P	. <b>W</b> .	L	Pts.
Pesaro (Italy)	10	8	2	18
Panathinaikos (Greece)	10	.7	3	.17
Real Madrid (Spain)	10	7	3	.17
CSKA Moscow (Russia)	10	5	5	15
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	10	5	. 5	15
Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia)		3	7	13
Paok Salonika (Greece)	10	3 .	7	13
Benfica (Portugal)	10	2	. 8	12

Group	рΒ				
Efes Pilsen (Turkey)	10	7.	', 3	17	
Olympiakos (Greece)	<b>. 18</b>	7	. 3	17	
Barcelona (Spain)	10	6	. 4	16	
Limoges (France)	10	6	4	16	
Bologna (Italy)	10	6	4	16 ·	
Bayer Leverkusen (Germany)	10	4	6	14	
Cibona Zagreb (Crostia)	10	4	6	14	
Joventut Badalona (Spain)	10	9	10	10	

# Warriors win in overtime: **Suns down Pacers**

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) — The Golden State Warriors ended their 14game road losing streak Thursday night, getting seven points in overtime from rookie Dwayne Morton in a 121-118 victory over the Washington Bullets.

The Warriors trailed by 18 points midway through the third quarter before rallying. Tim Hardaway scored 30 for Golden State, going 11-for-11 at the free throw line. Morton had a career-high 14 points, as did Tom Gugliotta 14 in his first game at USAIR

Arena since being traded from the Bullets on Nov. 17. Calbert Cheany led Washington with a careerhigh 32 points on 14-of-18 shooting. Scott Skiles had 25 points and Juwan Howard 24.

Suns 92, Pacers 86: In Indianapolis, Charles Barkley had a season-high 19 rebounds, including a crucial

Anthony Mason pulled down 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who had their 100th consecutive sellout at Madisoft Square Garden. Lamond Murray scored 14 points to pace the Clippers.

Trail Blazers 106, Pistons 89: In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Clyde Drexler, the subject of persistent trade rumours, scored 13 points nutes as Portland beat De-

Rob Strickland had 15 points and seven assists and Clifford Robinson had 14 points for Portland, which used an 18-2 run late in the third quarter to pull away. The victory was Portland's third in four games, while Detroit's loss was its 21st in

its last 26 games. Orlando, Florida, Shaquille O'Neal had 37 points and 17 rebounds to lead Orlando

# **NBA ROUNDUP**

one following a missed free throw in the final seconds as Phoemx matched the club record of eight straight road

The Pacers, who lost leading rebounder Dale Davis with a dislocated right shoulder early in the second quarter, trailed 80-65 with 9:23 left in the game. Rik Smits, who led all scorers with 26 points and had a team-high 12 rebounds, and Bryon Scott sparked a 17-4 run, but Indiana then blew four consecutive chances to tie the game. Elliot Perry and A.C. Green led the Suns with 14 points

Cavaliers 77, Hawks 68: In Atlanta, Cleveland matched its lowest scoring output of the season but held the Hawks to their lowest score since moving to Atlanta in

Chris Mills and Tyrone Hill leading the Cavaliers with 14 points apiece and Bobby Philis had 13. Mookie Blaylock led the Hawks with 22 points, including Atlanta's final nine points over the last

The Cavs won their third in a row and held the Hawks scoreless for the last 3:25 and didn't trail in the final 45:17.

Knicks 87, Clippers 74: In New York, Patrick Ewing had 21 points and 10 rebounds as New York Knicks won its sixth straight game and its 14th in the last 15.

The Clippers were held to just 29 first-half points as they lost their third straight on a six-game road trip that began Monday.

over Chicago, which played without suspended star Scottie Pippen.

The Magic, who improved their NBA-best record to 34-8 and kept a spotless 20-0 home mark, trailed most of lthe game but took the lead for good on a flying tap-in by Donald Royal with 1:02 left. O'Neal was then fouled on a jump hook with 37 seconds left and converted the threepoint play to put the game out of reach.

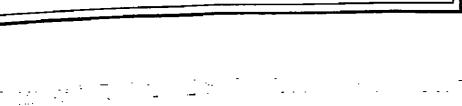
Dennis Scott scored 19 points and Nick Anderson added 15 for the Magic. Corie Blount, who started in place of Pippen, led Chicago with 16 points.

Spurs 103, Rockets 100: In San Antonio, the San Anto-nio Spurs relied almost exclusively on their starting five Thursday night, getting 101 points from them in beating Houston to move a half-game ahead of the Rockets in the Midwest Division.

Sean Elliott had 26 points and David Robinson 25 for San Antonio, which still trails Utah in the division. Dennis Rodman, debuting his fifth hair colour of the season (purple), grabbed 22 rebounds and added 11 points. Hakeem Olajuwon scored

36 for Houston and Robert Horry added 20. Jazz 120, Supersonics 108: In Tacoma, Washington, Utah won its 15th straight

road game - one short of the NBA record,—and 1 ith in a row overall, outscoring Seattle by 12 points in the fourth quarter.





# pean

Europe this season, the recovered from a disease points after 12 minutes wrap up the match is second half.

American Minutes American Michael Ye the match, scoring 17 pg. for the French.

in the first half, particle and dominated by Basis and Francisco and the right fold shorts before the basis at half first at hal cosing the gap to be promise at halftime on k. American Tim Kenge then spurred his learner into action and two te Point throws from capa Richard Dacoury after his nutte pur Limoges in

We now must try no.
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The against but we can
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and B said plants.
Frederic Forte. Little get, Visit pace-surmpouling important next Thursday.

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their starting in the starting Rockets at Ellioti had 201 Robinson Ja debuting his debut Clauwen and Russ 13. 120. Supersmit is
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# Roundu

# **Manchester United ban Eric** Cantona for the rest of the season

MANCHESTER (AP) — Manchester United on Friday suspended French striker Eric Cantona until the end of the season for attacking a fan at Wednesday's game at Crystal

The 28-year-old striker jumped into the crown and aimed a two-footed kung-fu-style kick at a 20-year-old Palace fan who had been taunting him after the Frenchman had been sent off.

Cantona then punched the fan before being restrained by

Manchester United director Maurice Watkins announced the ban at a news conference Friday, a day after the English Football Association charged Cantona with

bringing the game into disrepute.

Watkins also said United had fined Cantona "the maximum sum permissible," under his contract, although the club did not say what that figure was.

"What happened was a stain on our game," FA Chief Executive Graham Kelly said Thursday. "The Football Association believes the incident was unprecedented in our game. It brought shame on those involved and worst of all

Cantona, the French national team captain and English club player of the year last season, has 14 days to answer the FA's charge. His fate then will be decided at a hearing before an FA disciplinary committee, which also will take into account the action already taken by United. Meanwhile, the police continue their investigation into allegations of assault against Cantona. No charges have yet

heen made. In scenes the FA said were unprecedented in English soccer, the fan, 20-year-old Matthew Simmons, and Cantona exchanged punches before the player's teammates intervened. As the Frenchman was led away, another fracas erupted between United midfielder Paul Ince and an

Scotland Yard said the two fans gave statements at a local police station alleging assault. Both suffered minor

unidentified 48-year-old spectator.

World governing body FIFA also condemned Cantona's behaviour, but said that for now it would leave the matter in the hands of FA. It was the latest in a long line of Cantona tirades in France and England. Wednesday's red card was his fifth Manchester United star Eric Cantona fights with a spectator during Manchester United's 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace

this season for foul play in a pre-season exhibition game. The presidents of the French Football Federation and the National Soccer League have requested English soccer authorities to relay all information and evidence so they can take appropriate action. Federation president Claude Simonet indicated Cantona would be ousted as captain of

the French national team. "I am stupified by such behaviour, which is contrary to all sporting ethics," Simonet said. "The French Football



since joining Manchester United in 1992. He missed United's first four European Champions Cup games through suspension and served a three-match ban earlier

Federation will likely take draconian measures at the

# Al Wihdat clinch 4th Jordan Soccer League trophy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- Al Wihdat Friday won their 4th Jordan Soccer League crown after their final-minute 1-0 victory over Al Arabi who were relegated to the second

The match, attended by a record 22,000 fans at Amman Stadium, saw at least half a dozen chances squandered by Al Wihdat's players before Jamal Mahmoud netted the winning goal seconds before the final whistle.

A draw would have also secured the title for Al Wihdat who finished first two points ahead of secondplaced Al Ramtha who came in second after a 2-0 win over Shabab Al Hus-

Titleholders Al Faisali finished third after their 1-0 win over Al Hussein at Al Hassan Stadium in Irbid. Four teams dropped to the second division: Al Arabi, Shabab Al Hussein, Al Karmel and Al Jeel.

Wihdat

Faisali

Hussein

Qadissieh

standing after a 2-0 win over Al Karmel. Al Jazireh, who were 'near relegation last season maintained fifth place throughout most of the

competition and scored a

Shahah Al Hussein

Karmel

2-1 win over Al Ahli in their final match.

Al Ahli, Qadissieh and Kufrsoum tied in overall points and finished sixth, seventh and eighth on goal difference.

20 47

14 52

34 19

and England. Wednesday s	—	арргорнае попе	-iii.	
49ers	poise	d for	record	
fifth S	uper F	3owl	victor	y

superstars against a team of no names, a team of destiny against a Cinderella team. In Sunday's all-California Super Bowl, the San Francisco 49ers aim to become the first five-time winners of the NFL's big show, while the San Diego Chargers try to pull off the kind of upset

sports legends are made of. The 49ers were the undisputed team of the '80s with a 4-0 Super Bowl record. And after disposing of the selfproclaimed team of the '90s with a 38-28 victory over the two-time defending champion Dallas Cowboys, they are poised to add a new chapter to their glorious Su-

The only remaining obstacles to fulfilling that destiny is the fina he a team they already crushed Promand has 1 38-15 during the regular sea-

The 15-3 49ers, favoured ... seven 25505 by an unprecedented 20 points, boast the league's most explosive offence and the finest defence money can buy — a combination that seems sure to extend the 10year trend of NFC Super Bowl domination.

While it may be a re-other than the Buffalo Bills, losers of the last four — the 13-5 Chargers appear to be another in a long line of overmatched AFC clubs, long on heart and desire, but

short on weapons. Weapons are something weapons are something the Niners have in abundance, including nine prop who impro bowl players.

The offence features the Acague's best quarterback in Steve Young and a devastating veteran corps of receivers, led by record-breaking future half of famer Jerry

SOUTH

↑ A ↑ 764 ↑ AQJ 103 • AKQ5

Q J 10 9

The bidding:



Junior Seau of the San Diego Chargers stretches out during team practice on Thursday at the Dolphin Training Facility in Davie, Florida, three days prior to Super Bowl XXIX which will oppose the Chargers to the San Francisco 49ers

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Rice and complemented by tough-as-nails John Taylor, who caught the gamewinning touchdown pass in-Super Bowl XXIII.

They also field an improved running game, thanks to rookie fullback William Floyd who is an effective blocker for Ricky Watters and a solid short-yardage threat. And Young is almost as dangerous scrambling with the ball as he is throwing it. Young has said nothing

WITH OMAR SHARE & TANNAH HIRSCH

South West North East

1 Pass 1 Pass

3 Pass 3 Pass

3 NT Pass 4 Pass

4 Pass Pass

Pass Pass

Constitution of the control of

Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of V
Before playing to the first trick.
map your campaign carefully. The
secret is to deploy all your forces to
gain maximum effectiveness.
The key to the slam was North's

bid of four diamonds. When a player removes a game contract to a minor-

suit partial, it is not a sign of weak-ness; rather, it shows slam interest. South cooperated by cue-bidding

short of winning the championship would be acceptable to these 49ers. "Anything less would be a train wreck.

And to that end, the 49ers formerly suspect defence has been completely rebuilt with the express purpose of bring-ing home a fifth Super Bowl

Three-fourths of the San Francisco defensive backfield are pro-bowl selections, beginning with the supremely talented Deion Sanders, the

the ace of spades and North wasted no time in contracting for 12 tricks. West led the top of the heart se-quence and declarer's problem was obvious. A heart loser could not be avoided, so the fate of the contract

swoned, so the late of the contract hinged on not surrendering a club trick as well.

If clubs split 3-3, there was no problem. But the more likely club division was 4-2. Even that holding would not be fatal if either defender

had length in both minors, or if East was the defender with three trumps

and short clubs.

Declarer won the first trick in dummy, came to hand with the

player single-handedly capable of taking away half the field from opposing quarter-

Other significant additions to the revamped 49ers defence are fiery linebacker Ken Norton Jr. going for his record third straight title after starting for Dallas the past two years, and tested veterans Gary Plummer and Ricky Jackson, eaech looking for a first championship ring.

And sensational rookie defensive lineman Bryant Young has been wreaking havoc up front for the Niners

The Chargers fancy themselves a "smash mouth" team built in the NFC East mould - not a bad concept considering that division has pro duced six of the last eight Super Bowl champions. Their game is based on ball

control with burly young rushing talent natrone means steamrolling his way behind a huge front line.

San Diego knows it must keep Steve Young and company off the field in order to have a chance and that means controlling the line of scrimmage and eating up huge chunks of the clock with their running game.

Their offence is run by quarterback Stan Humphries, a pizza-loving throwback to the days before the fitness craze, who has a way of coming up with big plays when his team needs it most. These Chargers have de-

monstrated a propensity for producing stirring come-frombehind victories.

Few gave them a chance of stopping the Miami Dol-phins' high-scoring offence and even fewer thought they could contend with the Pittsburgh Steelers' stifling de-

queen of clubs, crossed back to the table by overtaking the three of trumps with the eight and led another club. When both defenders followed, declarer re-entered durnmy with the king of diamonds and led another club.

East was powerless to prevent declarer from bringing home the contract. If the defender ruffed with the last outstanding trump, declarer

# Oates lifts Bruins to win over New Jersey

FINAL STANDINGS

BOSTON (AP) - Adam Oates lifted the puck over Chris Terreri's left shoulder with 1:17 left in overtime Thursday night to preserve Blaine Lacher's perfect record and give the Boston Bruins a 1-0 victory over the New Jersey Devils.

Oates worked a give-andgo with Ray Bourque at the blue line before putting the shot on net. Cam Neely retrieved it from behind the goal and dropped it into the slot for Oates, who gave Boston its third straight victory. In Philadelphia, Garry

Al Wihdat's team

Al Qadissieh moved away

from the relegation zone af-ter a 5-1 win over Al Jeel

Kufrsoum, the only new-

comer this season to main-

tain a place in the first

division also secured their

28 5

42 9

44 13 34

W D L GF GA Pts.

14 8

11 5

14 <u>5</u>

> Galley and Mark Recchi scored less than two minutes anart late in the third period to give Philadelphia its first victory of the season. The win helped Philadelphia (1-3) avoid setting a club record for its worst start.

In Miami, Bob Kudelski

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★ Two bedrooms, living-dining room K & B.

☆ Dropped to second division.

scored twice, sparking Flor-ida's four-goal first period and leading the Panthers to their first victory of the season. Florida goalie John Van-biesbrouck broke out of a two-game slump in which he allowed nine goals, making 33 saves against Tampa Bay.

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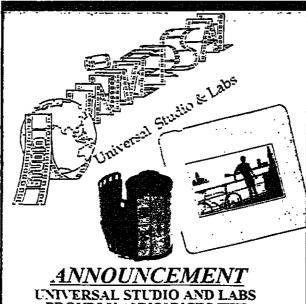
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#### tract. If the defender ruffed with the last outstanding trump, declarer would follow low, later discard a heart on the ace of clubs and trump the losing heart. If East did not ruff, the ace would win and declarer would ruff the last club with dummy's high trump. Tel.: 675571 Tel.: 634144 Tel.: 618274 - 618275 Nabil & Hisham's Cinema Tel.: 699238 Cinema Tel.: 677420 **AHLAN THEATRE** AMMOUN THEATRE Nabil Al Mashini Theatre PLAZA CONCORD PHILADELPHIA Presents Presents: CONÇORD "1" Najiaa Fathi & Farouq Al Fishawi — in SUM'A in the satirical play Abu Awwad The political satire: HI CITIZEN Sylvester Stallone - Sharon Stone THE GARAGE in the social comedy al salam ya salam, Composed and directed by Jim Carrey D Mohammad Al Shawaqieh THE SPECIALIST Punctured Bag at 8:30 p.m. Daily from 8 p.m. Children's Play Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 For reservation, please call 825155 The movie: The Lion The theatre is closed on THE MASK CONCORD "2" The Ninja Turtles Show Mondays King will be shown at 5 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston -The theatre is closed on Directed by Akram Abu! Ragneb Tickets are available all p.m. every evening as well THE BODYGUARD Saturdays & Sundays Daily at 10:30 p.m. as extra shows on Fridays and Thursdays at 10:30

# in overtime

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel are "stuck" on a list of commodities to be given preferential treatment in a trade agreement being negotiated in view of the high customs duties and taxes on imports to Israel, a senior official said

The official said Jordan was also "taking it slowly" while negotiating the trade like to conclude an agreement as quickly as possible, but we have to take a lot of factors into consideration before we actually enter an accord," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

'We don't want to rush into something as serious as a trade agreement with any-one," added the official. That being the principle, however, the official said he expected a meeting on Wednesday to make progress on the issue. The two sides met last Wednesday but they could

not reach agreement on the list of commodities.
Under the Oct. 26 peace treaty, Jordan and Israel are bound to finalise an accord on trade by May 10.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, during a Jan. 12 visit to Amman, set Jan. 25 as the deadline for reaching an accord as part of an effort to

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt is demanding \$900 million in

compensation from Sudan for

its seizure of Egyptian

schools and other property in

Khartoum, a government

newspaper reported on-

to the Sudanese government a "long list" of property

which was confiscated "as

part of a provocative cam-

paign" and demanded three billion Egyptian pounds in

compensation, the Egyptian

The Sudanese government

since 1993 has taken control

of Egyptian schools and the

Khartoum branch of Cairo

University saying the moves were part of "the Islamisa-

tion of education in the

Last year it seized several

Egyptian irrigation depart-

ment offices arguing their

Relations between the two

neighbours have been

strained since the govern-ment of General Omar Al

Bashir came to power in June

over the resource-rich border

area of Halaib erupted again

in 1991. Egypt accuses Sudan

of supporting Islamic mili-tants, while Sudan accused

Egypt of backing its opposi-

Gen. Bashir was quoted by

the government daily Al En-

gaz Al Watani on Friday as

ROME (Agencies) — Presidential elections will be held

as scheduled in Algeria this

year, possibly in July, Alge-

rian Foreign Minister

Mohammad Salah Dembri

has said after talks at the

chaos, but a state with institu-

tions which function," he in-

sisted at a press conference

He added that there was

"strictly nothing" to negoti-

ate with the country's politic-

A number of the bigger

parties met here two weeks

ago with the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and

proposed their own solution

to Algeria's three-year con-

flict in which more than

10.000 people have been kil-

led. They urged negotiations

with the military-backed gov-

ernment and the lifting of

emergency measures, includ-

ing the ban on the FIS, but

ruled out elections in the

Vatican Secretary for Rela-

tions with Other States Jean-

Louis Tauran, said Algeria

would restore the electoral

process by staging a presiden-

tial poll in 1995, saying "that

is an irreversible commit-

Mr. Dembri, who met

current climate of unrest.

'Algeria is not a state in

Vatican.

poll firm — minister

tion exiled in Cairo.

A long, simmering dispute

leases had expired.

Gazette said.

Egypt last week submitted

damages from Sudan

deadline was missed as a result of the differing

We don't see it as a deadlock, but a matter to be settled in further negotiations," said the Jordanian official, who declined to go into details of the differences. "We hope the issue could be settled this week" when the two sides meet at Deir Alla on the Jordanian side of the Jordan

But it appeared that the main difference was over Israel's insistence that the lowering of tariffs be "symmetrical" — meaning that the cuts be uniform on both sides in terms of percentages.

This would effectively mean Israeli duties and taxes on Jordanian products remaining higher than the Jordanian tariffs on Israeli products. "Basically, we believe that

Israel, in view of its high customs duties and other taxes related to imported products, should give Jordan a better deal," said the offi-cial. He noted that "the base customs duties and taxation starts from 24 per cent in Jordan while the base for Israel is over 30 per cent." 'We don't see why Israel

cannot offer us preferential treatment at par with the

telling Egypt's legal opposi-tion that ties had chilled over

measures taken by the

Egyptian authorities with the

aim of changing the features"

of the area, a reference to

But Gen. Bashir also told

official told the Jordan

According to reports in the Israeli press, the two sides have reached an agreement in principle that more Jordanian goods would benefit from preferential treatment as well as from overall lower duties and the differences are over the actual items to be included in the list for preferential treatment.

Aviation talks stalled

Israeli Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar said Wednesday that he did not expect Jordan and his country to finalise an agreement in civil

According to Mr. Kessar, who was quoted by the Jerusalem Post in its Thursday issue, the stalemate was over the route that Jordanian aircraft are to take while flying through Israeli airspace. Jordan is seeking a higher alti-tude than the 11,000 feet that

Israel is offering.
Israel is arguing that commercial flights to Jordan flying at a height above 11,000 feet would interfere with Israeli military training flights.
"We have offered them the

best possible terms without hurting the air force," Mr. Kessar was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post. But flying as low as 11,000 feet would effectively eliminRoyal Jordanian (RJ) planes would have when they cut short the flying time by using Israeli airspace to enter the Mediterranean skies on their West-bound flights.

A senior Jordanian official familiar with the negotiations said the Kingdom was insisting on the "universal principle of free ascent and descent" which is an essential component in international air transport agreements.

"What is the use of an agreement if we cannot agree on the basic principles,' asked the official. "If Jordanian aircraft were to use Israeli airspace under the conditions that Israel wants, then there is little, if any at all, advantage for us."
Furthermore, "flying

under 11,000 feet in winter is not at all a pleasant experience for passengers since that belt of altitude in this part of the world would have a lot of turbulence," said the official. On the Israeli argument

involving military training flights, the official said: "In a situation of peace, why can't they shift the area of training flights?"
The statement, according

to Mr. Kessar, also means that there would be no agreement between RJ and Israel's El Al airlines. An RJ-El Al accord will make it possible for tourists to fly to Queen Alia International Airport or

# (Continued on page 7) ate the fuel advantage that Egypt wants \$900m in | Bahrain asks Britain to

LONDON (AFP) - Bahrain on Friday asked Britain to refuse political asylum to three opposition figures here, saying they were terrorists bent on using London as a base to create an Islamic state

the opposition parties who Bahraini Foreign Minister were in Khartoum on Thursday that Sudan will support Egypt "in any stands it takes for defending its positions and rights against Israeli Egypt says it will not renew

its adherence to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty if Israel refuses to sign on. A leading Egyptian opposi-

tion leader has recommended that Egypt and Sudan seek international arbitration to resolve their dispute over

Ibrahim Shukri, head of the Labour Party, made the suggestion after he and other opposition leaders met Thursday with Gen. Bashir.

Gen. Bashir said that steps taken by Egypt over the Halaib area could have led to a break in diplomatic relations had it not been for Sudanese respect for the Egyptian people.

Halaib, a triangle-shaped border area along the Red Sea, is believed to be rich in Under a 1899 treaty with

Britain, Halaib was incorporated into Egypt. But in 1902, Egypt gave Sudan administrative powers there.

held as from July since prepa-

rations were supposed to be completed by the end of

The minister said a govern-

ment memorandum sent to

the legal political parties and

other national organisations on Thursday spelt out the

need to work together closely

on the election law, with

amendments and guarantees

of proper procedure up for

to negotiate, but on the other

hand we need to ensure good

conditions to achieve a fault-

free passage leading to res-

toration of the electoral pro-

and social formations in

Algeria, you should unite to

reach a consensus and collec-

tive decision (on holding

elections) but there is nothing

to negotiate with the state or

Vatican spokesman Joa-

quin Navarro Valls said the

foreign minister had briefed Mr. Tauran on the Algiers

government's priorities, which included "respect for

the constitution, multiparty

politics, political rotation,

and the organisation of free

elections in 1995 with the

(Continued on page 7)

the government."

'We say to all the political

cess," Mr. Dembri said.

"There is strictly nothing

refuse asylum to rebels

Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa said he asked British counterpart Douglas Hurd to refuse asylum to Sheikh Ali Salman, 30, a leading Shiite cleric who came here with followers last

He told reporters after the meeting that Mr. Hurd was non-committal, saying the case was under study. The three were granted

temporary stay in Britain pending a ruling on their request for asylum. Bahrain on Dec. 5 touched

off the worst political violence the Gulf country has seen since it gained independence from British protection in 1971. The London-based Islamic

Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said a total of 16 people were killed in the unrest, but Bahraini authorities only acknowledged Sheikh Al Khalifa said he

the death of one policeman. told Mr. Hurd that "terrorist acts being taken (in Bahrain) were led by a few individuals who flew to this country under a banner which looks

different from what's really

KOBE (Agencies) — Thousands of Japanese left homeless in last week's quake

lined up Friday to apply for new housing, and officials opened dozens of new clinics

to head off a flu epidemic

among the victims.

The Jan. 17 quake killed more than 5,000 people and left about 300,000 homeless.

Many of the victims, faced

with contagious disease and

depression in the crowded

and cold shelters, are desper-

ate for the privacy of a home.

people waited in line outside

tents set up around the city to

apply for only 2,289 tempor-

ary houses, most of which

were built in the last week by

the government. The govern-

ment plans to build another

60,000 units in the coming

Koichi Tato, a Liberal

Democratic Party lawmaker,

said in Tokyo the govern-

ment should accept foreign-

available means to procure houses," he said during a

parliamentary budget com-

In the latest sign of norma-

lisation in Kobe, a main ex-

pressway damaged in the

quake was opened Friday,

allowing trucks to ferry in

mittee session.

"We must think about all

built houses for evacuees.

On Friday, about 37,000

for homes in Kobe

"I think if they are permitted to stay in this country they will organise activities against the law in my country," he said. "The are Isla-mic extremists, they represent a fundamentalist phi-

intent on creating an Islamic state in his country. Bahrain deported three

exile said Friday. Sheikh Mohammad Hassan Ali Hussein Khojasteh, Mohammad Nasser and Mohammad arrived in the Iranian port of Bushehr

The three had been accused of taking part in the ciashes between security forces and demonstrators in mid-December, he said.

and tortured for 12 days in Hodh Al Jaf prison, the IFLB member charged, adding that no reason had been given for the deportation of the three

Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, accused "foreign countries" of whipping up unrest, in an interview published in Egypt Friday. His son. Crown Prince

emergency supplies. Traffic

on Friday was backed up at

some points for up to 30

kilometres between Kobe

of the vital industrial heart of

the port city. The Ministry of

International Trade and In-

dustry said Friday that it

would take one or two

months to restore industrial

water services to the area's

To combat influenza that

has swept through the ranks

of hundreds of refugees in

Kobe's shelters, regional gov-

ernment officials increased

the number of makeshift di-

nics in the city from 23 to 115

on Friday, and increased the

number of nurses to more

Survivors of the worst ear-

thquake in modern Japan

said they desperately needed

with traumatic stress and

harsh living conditions in

makeshift evacuation shel-

food, water and blankets, we

still feel extremely uneasy," said Yasunosuke Soeda, 53,

one of about 2.100 evacuees

at the Kasugano elementary

school in central Kobe.

(Continued on page 7)

Although we now have

psychological support to deal

The quake wrecked much

and nearby Osaka.

companies.

than 400.

Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa, accused Iran without naming it of being behind the volved Shiite Muslims.

#### that are to be issued are no more than travel documents," a Jordanian official told the Jordan Times." "The Jordanian two-year passports are also travel documents and

He said the opposition was

dissidents to Iran this week. the Bahraini opposition-in-

on Tuesday, said an IFLB

Shikh Khojasteh was jailed The emir of Bahrain,

was taking place. Algeria presidential | Thousands line up

two sides then decided that the situation did not warrant raising the issue of a dual "The status of Palestinian holders of Jordanian two-

be no problem of dual

citizenship."
The PNA had asked Jor-

dan to allow dual citizenships

to enable Palestinian holders

of two-year passports to have

both Palestinian and Jorda-

Jordan responded that it

could not allow dual

citizenships since that con-

travened the Arab League

rules and regulations. But the

year passports will remain intact," the official said. "But Jordanians of Palestinian origin who hold fiveyear passports who are citizens are not expected to acquire Palestinian passports," the official explained.

A senior PNA official said the Palestinians had decided that there was no need to raise the issue of dual

any changes on the current situation. It was not clear yet how the two travel documents will be

college of technology before dawn Friday

arresting 30 students (see page one) (AFP

ușed. Palestinians have requested Jordan not to withdraw the two year passports from West Bankers and Gazans to enable them to travel to places where Palestinian passports will not be PNA officials insist that the

U.S., Israel and other donor countries have accepted to recognise the Palestinian passports as travel docu-

Jordan and PNA have also greed to extend crossing hours on the King Hussein Bridge to 16 hours as a prelude to keep the bridge open for 24 hours, the official.

He said that it was agreed that bridges should be reconstructed to enable vehicles to cross from Jordan to the autonomous areas and back

#### Chechens hold out in Grozny Pavel Grachev, whose hand-Goliath battle for independ-

GROZNY (Agencies) — Chechen fighters put up fierce resistance in the devastated southeast of Grozny on Friday as massive Russian armour and infantry reinforcements rolled into the western suburbs of the city.

HEBRON CLASHES: An Israeli soldier hand-

cuffs a Palestinian youth while another one

Friday. Israeli troops raided a West Bank

By Lamis K. Andoni

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the

Palestine National Authority

(PNA) decided that there

was no need to discuss giving Palestinian holders of Jorda-

nian two-year passports dual citizenship since both their

Jordanian passports and to-be-issued Palestinian pass-

ports are no more than travel

Consequently the issuance

of Palestinian passports that

the PNA plans as part of

enhancing symbols of Palesti-

nian sovereignty, should not

warrant changing the status of Palestinian holders of the

Jordanian . two-year pass-

do not mean citizenship. Consequently there should

"The Palestinian passports

documents.

stands guard following clashes in Hebron on . photo)

**Dual Jordanian-Palestinian** 

'nationality' no longer an issue

nian passports.

Chechen independence forces held the southeast quarter of Grozny, holding back vastly superior numbers of Russian tanks and infantry.

from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) flew to Mozdok, north Ossetia, Friday from Moscow on their way to Chechenya, Moscow Echo radio reported. The five-man delegation

was to discuss the fate of prisoners and the humanitarian situation in the breakaway republic, but would not seek to mediate between the warring sides.

Russian planes bombed the Minutka district and around the tram station, east of the presidential palace, where some of the heaviest fighting

Despite the fall of the presidential palace. Chechen fighters in the centre said they were determined to maintain their David-and-

ence from the Russian Federation. "We'll fight to the last

man," said commander Hampasha Djambekov, at the tram park battle front. He said that in the last 24 hours, his men had killed 250 Russians and taken 17 pris-

Aslan Dambayev, a nechanic turned soldier, said he received no orders and operated independently.

"When they attack my house, I defend it," he said. A handful of civilians continue to eke out a miserable existance huddling in bomb shelters in the blasted centre.

Separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev has asked his representatives in Moscow to begin negotiations with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, said Moscow Echo Radio, quoting Dudayev spokesman Moviadi Udugov.

On Jan. 17, Chechen and Russian delegations said they had reached a ceasefire agreement, but it was never implemented.

In Moscow, Russia's State Duma, lower house of parliament, failed to pass a resolution on Friday demanding the sacking of Defence Minister

ling of the Chechenya conflict has been criticised at home and abroad. A total of 121 deputies short of the 226 majority

Mr. Grachev not up to his post and ask President Boris Yeltsin to sack him. There were 47 votes against and three abstentions. pared by the conservative Duma faction Women of

needed - voted for the re-

solution asking Prime Minis-

ter Chernomyrdin to declare

Russia. It would not have been legally binding even if passed.

Mr. Grachev has faced mounting criticism for the brutality and ineffectiveness of Russia's military campaign to crush Chechen independ-

He is a member of Mr. Yeltsin's powerful security council, an inner circle of top officials who have directed Russia's Chechenya cam-

paign. Chechenya on Friday freed six Russian soldiers held since last month, in what Chechen military officials called a unilateral gesture, Oleg Orlov, an adviser to Russian human rights envoy Sergei Kovalyov, said.

# Grant resigns as UNICEF head

AMMAN (J.T.) Secretary-General of the United Nations Boutros Ghali announced Thursday the resignation of James Grant, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Mr. Grant, who assumed

office as the third executive director of UNICEF with the rank of under-secretarygeneral of the United Nations, on Jan. 1, 1980, resigned for health reasons which had forced him to undergo several surgical opera-tions in the last couple of years.

In his letter to the secretary general, Mr. Grant said "serving as UNICEF's executive director for 15 years has been the greatest privilege of my life and the capstone of my 50 years of international During his 15 years tenure

as head of UNICEF, Mr. Grant has shown an unflagging commitment, vision and dedication to improving the lives of the world's least advantaged: the children of the developing world. Under his leadership. UNICEF has confronted and decried what Mr. Grant called the silent emergency, the daily tragedy of millions of children caught in the relentless downward



**James Grant** 

spiral of poverty, deprivation and environmental degrada-

Each year these conditions cause the deaths of millions and result in many more stunted lives. During Mr. Grant's term, UNICEF has also responded to the loud emergencies, and worked to save the lives of women and children caught in disasters such as earthquakes, famine and war.

In the 1980s, UNICEF launched the child survival and development revolution, which to date, has saved the lives of an estimated 25 million children and prevented disabilities in many more. Its success was predicated on Mr. Grant's unique strategy

to emphasize simple, low cost and practical methods for child welfare and survival like immunisation, oral rehydration and breastfeedir g. That inspired a worldwide movement by mobilising the political will necessary to bring these remedies to the millions of children and mothers threatened by preventable disease and malnutrition. The World Summit for

Children in 1990, the first meeting of its kind where world leaders met to address serious social issues, stands out as one of the main highlights of his career. The samemit set 27 child health and welfare goals that have been incorporated into the national plans of more than 100 countries.

Mr. Grant's strategy of setting specific, measurable goals, lobbying tirelessly for their achievement, and monitoring and publicising prog-ress towards them, has been remarkably effective. In the decade and a half he has spent at the head of UN-ICEF, he has personally met with more than 100 heads of state or government, including many of the Arab World, to enlist their personal and political support for the achievement of specific goals



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#### Clinton takes on critics who call him wishy-washy

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton rejected criticism that he lacks strong convictions, saying he has taken on tough fights on trade, gun control and other controversial issues and got-ten "a lot of grief" for it. "If you look at all the strong opponents I've got, I've wouldn't have them if I didn't have strong convictions," he said in an "NBC Nightly News With Tom Brokaw" interview. The interview was videotaped in the Oval Office two days after the Democratic president, in an 81-minute address to Congress and the country, tried to regain citizenship and not to make momentum after the Republican takeover of the legisla-tive branch of government Mr. Clinton, who has drawn

barbs from both friends and

foes for being too long-winded, conceded that the ses, the Clinton admiand remains committed speech was "a little longer than I wanted it to be." "If neine Jordan's econoadsecurity needs in the self-discipline is the requisite of leadership — and it is relletreau met Saturthen President Clinton's th His Majesty King State of the Union address and to discuss the U.S.dramatised his failure. It was and Middle East peace a speech about everything, and bilateral relaand therefore about nothing. The talks also covered It was a huge missed opporp improve and strengtunity, and one he will reor cooperation in ways gret," David Broder, a widethe Jordanian people ly respected political columnist for the Washington Post, wrote Thursday. Mr.: Metreau told Jordan Clinton said his speech ranlong not because of a lack of y U.S. official, who also control of his part as Mr. with Prime Minister Broader and other critics ¿Zeid Ben Shaker and claim. Rather, he said he did im Minister Abdul not expect opposition law-Kabariti Saturday. makers to "respond as posimoted by the Jordan tively as they did to some of Agency, Petra, 2s the things I said." As for the ந்த U.S. support to Joroft-heard criticism that he has through debt write-offs failed to lead effectively bethe encouragement of cause he is too wishy-washy, ican private sector in-Mr. Clinton said: "If you

body can remember. We did

that ... and took a lot of grief for it," he said.

Panel endorses

wider testing of

BETHESDA, Maryland

(AP) - A scientific advisory

panel urged the U.S. govern-

ment to heed AIDS victims'

pleas for wider testing of the

nation's first thereapeutic

vaccine for the fatal virus.

But it warned that patients

should not expect a miracle.

The vaccine, developed by

Dr. Jonas Salk, the invetor of

the first polio vaccine, is in-

tended to help people with

the HIV virus that causes

AIDS healthier longer. After

12½ hours of debate, the

panel of scientists voted 6-3.

with one undecided, to re-

commend that the U.S. Food

and Drug Administration allow Phase 3 clinical trials in

as many as 5,000 patients of

the vaccine, called Im-

munogen. "I am not at all

excited about the data I've

seen," said the committee's

chairman, Dr. Stanley

Lemon of the University of North Carolina. "But I would

be thrilled to be proven wrong." But the advisory

committed warned that pa-

tients should not expect a

miracle from the vaccine.

whose effects it said had been

exaggerated by its maker.

Immune Response Corp. of, Carlsbad, Calif. The panelists

agreed that patients with the

feeblest immune system,

should not be included in the

trial. While other scientists

are testing vaccines to both

prevent HIV infection and to

treat it. Salk's is the first

therapeutic vaccine in de-

velopment. He took a strain

of HIV, stripped it of out its

protective coating and then inactivated the whole virus.

Two other therapeutic vac-

cines are being tested with

only portions of the virus.

The killed virus is then added

to a chemical that helps the

immune cells recognise an

invader, remember what it

looks like and fight it off. The

theory is that without this

immune-memory boost, HIV can hide in the body and

elude immune cells until it

has grown strong enough to

wipe out the immune system-

**AIDS vaccine** 

# look at all the strong opponents I've got, I wouldn't have them if I didn't have strong convictions." First of all, who reversed 12 years of all, who reversed 12 years of flagrant deficit spending? We did by one vote (with) the most brutal fighting that any

ት P.V. Vivekanand ¹ Times Staff Reporter

AN — Israel will start drawing its forces to delineated internationorders on Monday and mocess will be completed simulated in the Oct. 26 theaty between the two anes, a senior Armed कः official said Saturday.

Intadier-General Tahsin dom, head of the Jordais the joint commitinh Israel on borders and affairs, said the with-™ould come in two ≈ ≥nd would be com-付 by Feb. 10. SeGen. Shurdom, who

also closely involved in accordations that led to calv. told a briefing at raneral Headquarters of Amed Forces that the thase of withdrawal inareas in the south being Monday and the adin the north beginning

withdrawal follows the al beginning on Jan. 17 demarcation of interborders along the

# graeli sie peace, PN

A (Agencies) — The tion,"
NAI National AuthorMr. NA) Said on Saturday PNA liael's closure of the Strip and West Bank lewish settlement activharm the peace itraeli government

And off the territories last Petria a Suicide bomb Ark in central Israel by two lihad guerrillas which Kanafani, spokesor palestine Liberation disting (PLO) Chairlaser Arafat, said the at its weekly meeting e punishment against

als, which will harm Process and is as as the acts which ese measures." resident (Arafat) is about this situation. is to immediately lift We think we explosive situation Settlement combined

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